ON BORROWED TIME

Based on a PMD: EOS nuzlocke playthrough.

Rules:

- Recruit only the first pokemon who asks per an area.

- Each party member must have a different tactic in-dungeon.

- No use of the map.

- No use of the bank.

- No reviver seeds.

- Legendaries may be recruited, but only used if body size 1.

- Up to 5 Wondermail codes may be used.

- If a party member faints, they're dead.
  > If the main hero faints, game over.
  > If the partner faints, replace through outside means.

Rune

Species: Alolan Vulpix
Pronouns: She/Her
Location Met: Beach Shore

► An Alolan Vulpix with a bit of an attitude
major), Rune has a bit of a mouth on her and
remark, especially with her exploration partne
grants her clairvoyance of events occurring e

Malachi

Species: Shinx...?
Pronouns: He/Him
Location Met: Treasure Town

► A bundle of nerves who really just wants
Shinx who is open and friendly to all who cr
that it appears he has taken a shine to a tal
carries on his person via a specially made po
chatterbox, but his knowledge isn't without ba
subjects. His eyes glow blue while communicat

Maelstrom

Species: Relic Fragment
Pronouns: She/Her
Location Met: ???

► A strange entity who appears to be a roc
"champion" and assigned him a grand destiny.
defined, but she is proud of all of his accom
for how the youth of today talk, and is surpr

and a minor case of amnesia (alright, maybe
d is quick to come up with a sarcastic
r, Malachi. Possesses a strange ability which
ither in the future or the past.

---

a friend, Malachi is a partially evolved
oss his path. He's so desperate for friendship
king rock named Maelstrom, who he often
uch in his scarves. He may be quite the
se, as he seems educated in a variety of
ing with Maelstrom.

---

k, Maelstrom selected Malachi as her
What that destiny is has not been clearly
plishments nonetheless. Has an appreciation
risingly sassy.

Dielle

Species: Meowth (Thunderclap Var
Pronouns: She/Her
Location Met: Marowak Dojo

► If social anxiety took the form of a poke
heritage gives her quite a bit more firepower
capabilities tend to prevent her from reaching
insecurity. While she's excellent working with
thrilling adventure in the wilds outside of qui

Inigo

Species: Nidorina (Pouched Variatio
Pronouns: He/Him
Location Met: Marowak Dojo

► Upon first seeing Inigo, one may notice hi
than your average Nidorina, thanks to his Kan
when it comes to battling, knowing full well
fight in his favor, though he can be a bit of
with his blunt criticism.

Yohann

Species: Psyduck
Pronouns: He/Him
Location Met: Sentry Outpost

► Local tailor and fashionista, Yohann has a
in direct contrast with his flashy, boisterous
mostly because he's one of the few pokemon

iation)

emon, it likely would manifest into Dielle. Her
r than the average Meowth, but her physical
g her full potential and is a source of
the children at the dojo, she longs for
et Treasure Town.

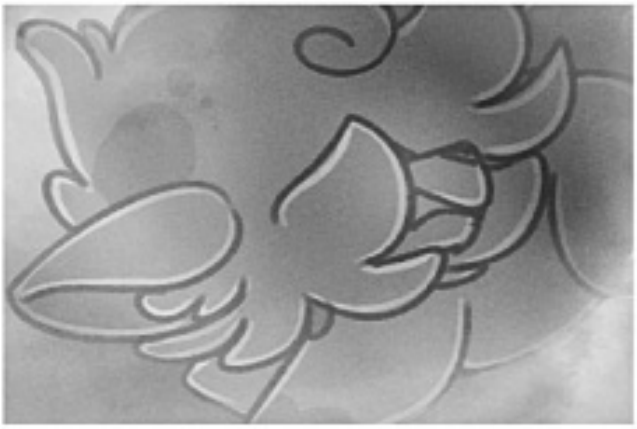
---

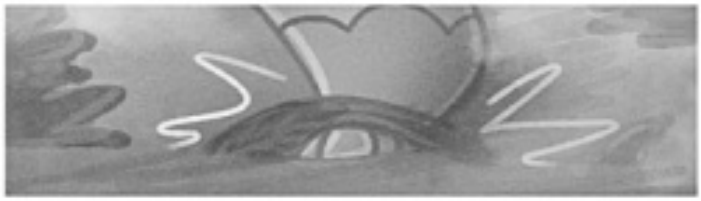
on)

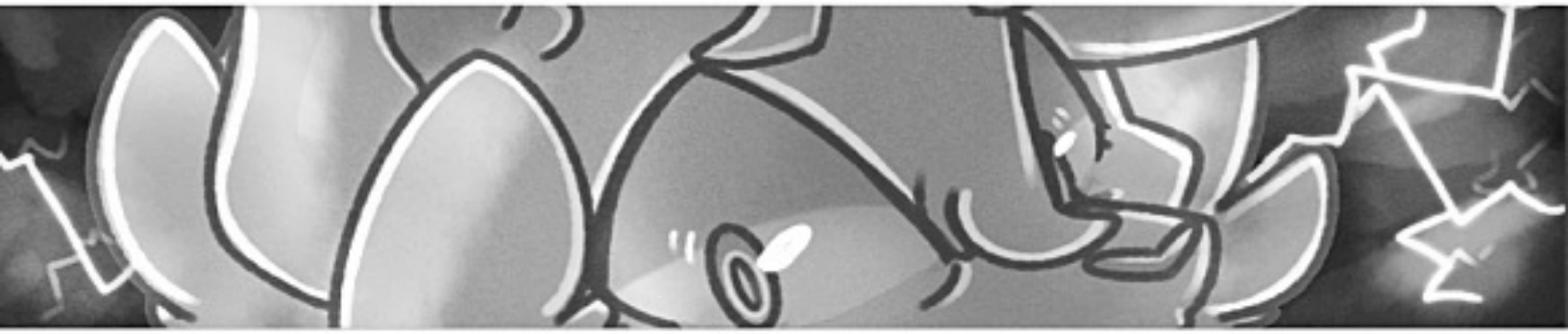
is intimidating stature puts him much taller
gaskhan heritage. He's something of a prodigy
his body's capabilities so that he can turn a
a brat when teaching others these techniques

---

no-nonsense attitude and dry sense of humor
sense of style. A friend of Malachi's- but
geared to handle his long-winded rambles.

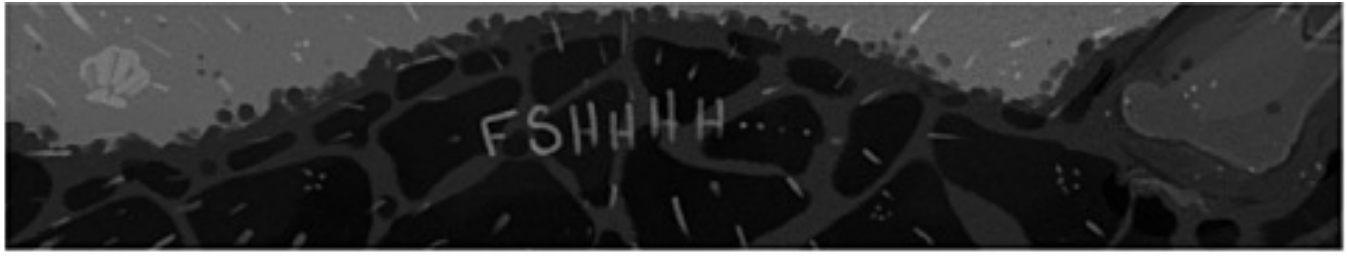






YOU APPEAR TO BE... LOST.

SHHH
HKK
ALLOW ME TO PUT YOU WHERE YOU BELONG.
SPLASH


FSHHHH...

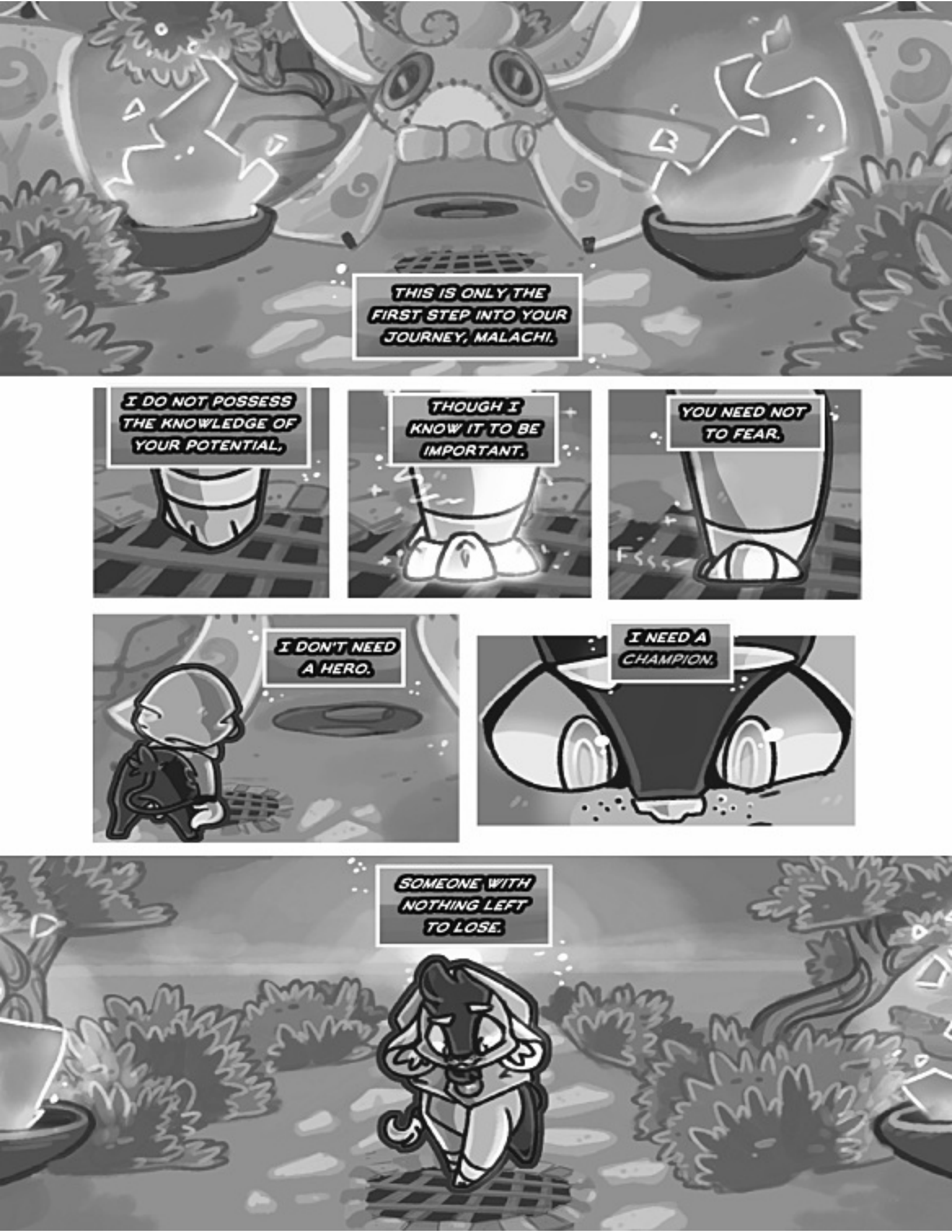
SHAAAAAHH.....

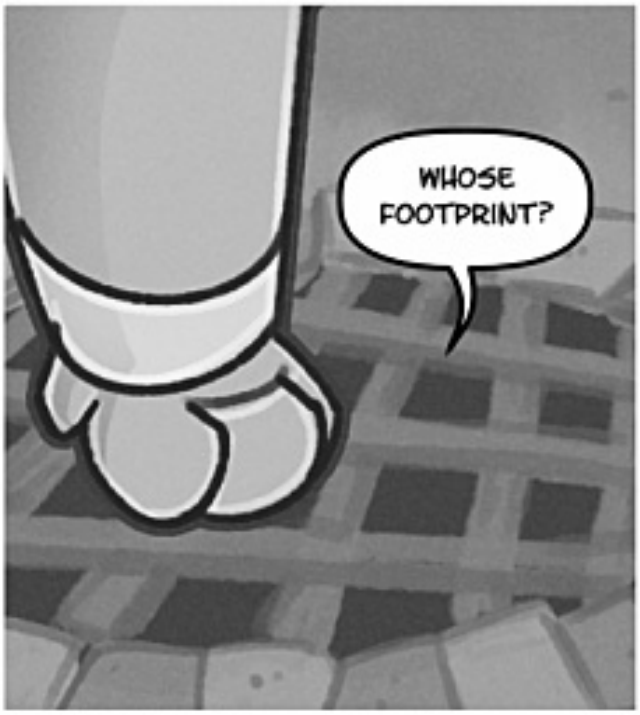
SHHHH...

...

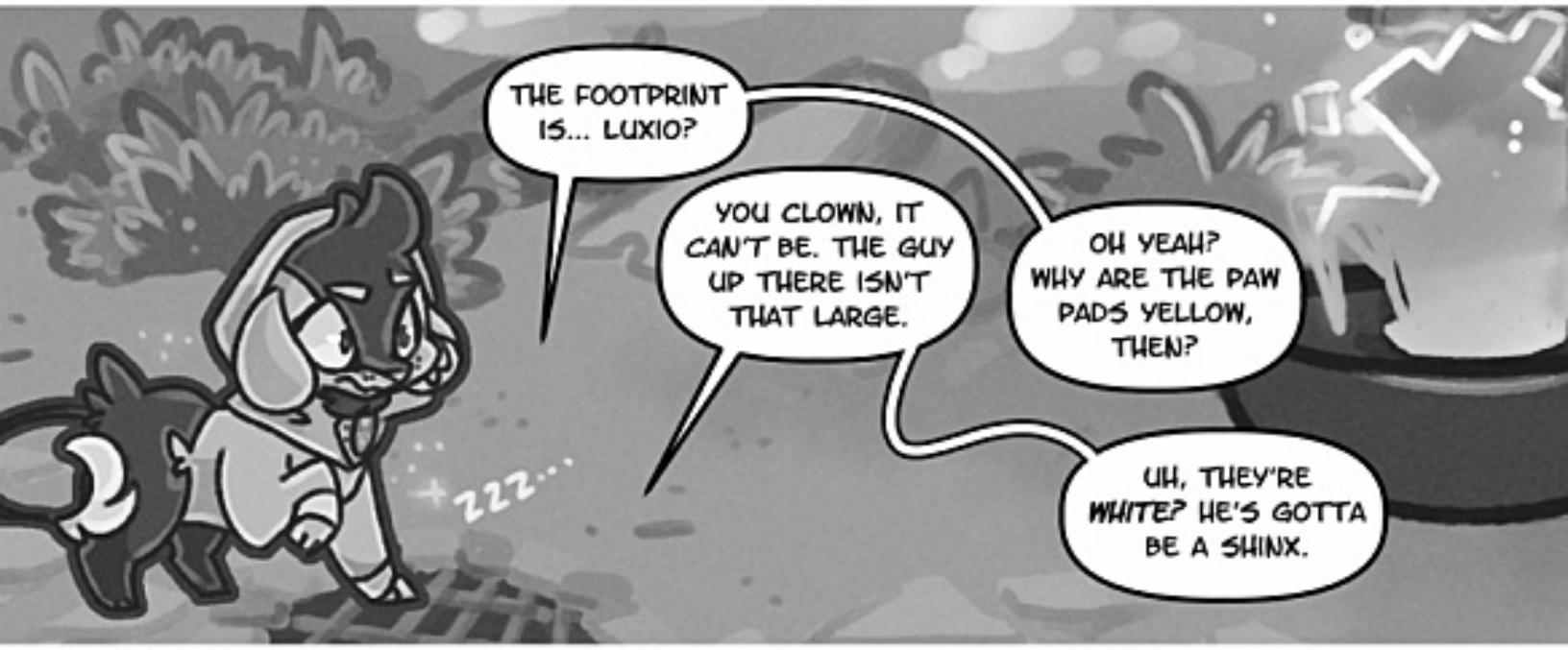
HSSSHH...
END OF PROLOGUE

Chapter 1
A Storm At Sea


THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP INTO YOUR JOURNEY, MALACHI.
I DO NOT POSSESS THE KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR POTENTIAL,
THOUGH I KNOW IT TO BE IMPORTANT.
YOU NEED NOT TO FEAR.
I DON'T NEED A HERO.
I NEED A CHAMPION.
SOMEONE WITH NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE.


WHOSE FOOTPRINT?

OKAY...
DOING GOOD. YOU CAN HANDLE SOME GRAND DESTINY MALACHI, EASY-


THE FOOTPRINT IS... LUXIO?
YOU CLOWN, IT CAN'T BE. THE GUY UP THERE ISN'T THAT LARGE.
OH YEAH? WHY ARE THE PAW PADS YELLOW, THEN?
UH, THEY'RE *WHITE?* HE'S GOTTA BE A SHINX.
ZZZ...

I'M TELLING YOU, HE'S A LUXIO!
SHINX!
LUXIO!
SHINX!
ZZZ
ZZT
... OH, I GOT IT! HE'S HALF EVO-!

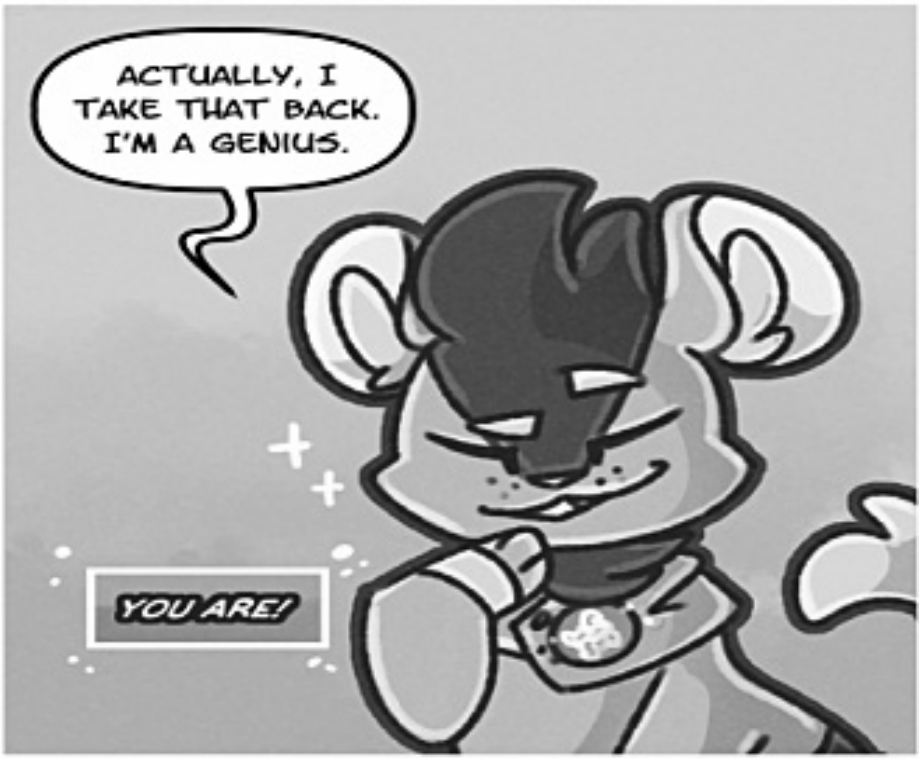
GAH!!
I'M A *SHINX*, IT'S NOT THAT *HARD!*

ZZZ
SIGH
FSSH... SHAAAH...
fsssh...
MY CHAMPION! WHY DO YOU RUN FROM OUR DESTINY?
SHING!
RUNNING LIKE A BABY WAS NOT A PART OF "THE PLAN"!
I KNOW IT'S NOT PART OF THE PLAN, MAELSTROM!

LOOK I JUST-

HOW CAN I EXPECT MYSELF TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY IF POKEMON CAN'T EVEN DECIDE WHAT SPECIES I AM?
WHO CARES OF YOUR SPECIES, FOR YOU ARE A CHAMPION!

I CARE!
BECAUSE I'M HARDLY CHAMPION MATERIAL.
BESIDES, I'M NOT REALLY STRONG, OR BRAVE, OR SMART...


ACTUALLY, I TAKE THAT BACK. I'M A GENIUS.
YOU ARE!

HEY, HOW ABOUT YOU SEND ME A SIGN FOR ONCE?
ISN'T THAT WHAT SPIRIT GUIDES ARE SUPPOSED TO DO?

OH MY GOD.
OH MY GOD.

ARE THEY DEAD?
DO THEY NEED HELP?!

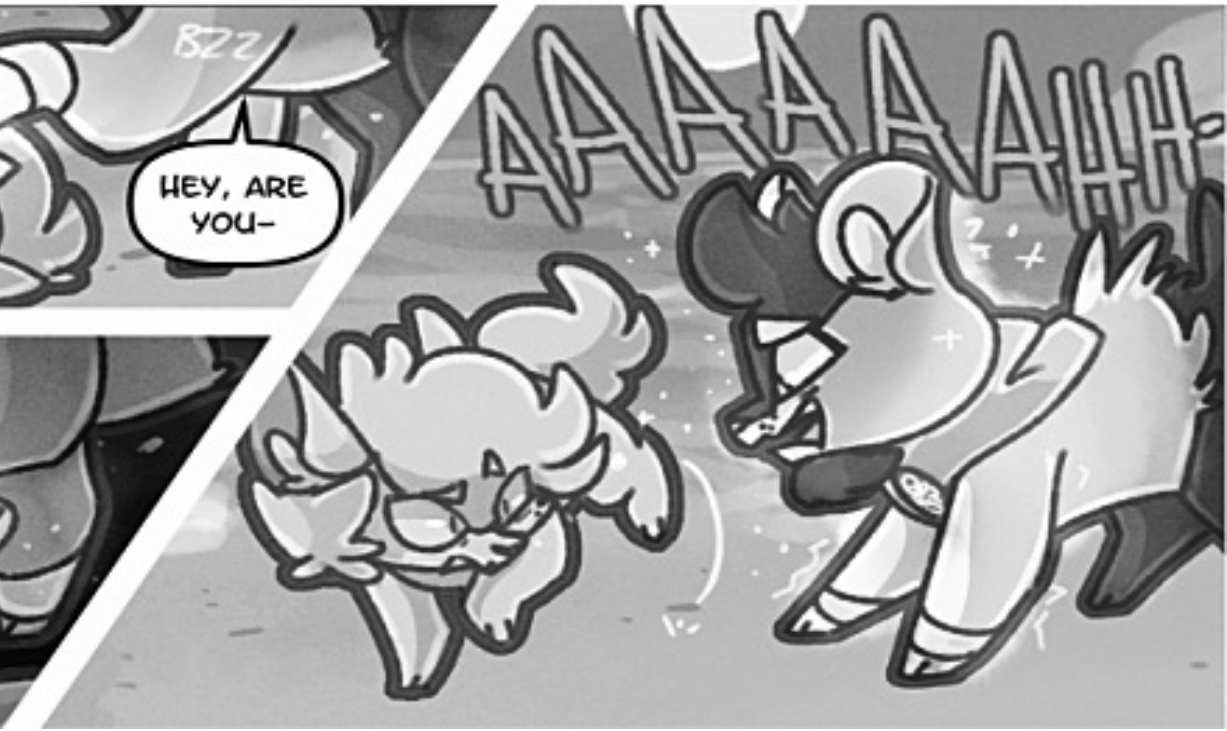
I HAVE SENT YOU A SIGN, MY CHAMPION!

YOU DID THIS?!
I JEST. THAT WAS ONE OF THOSE, "JOKES". I CANNOT DO ANYTHING BECAUSE I AM A ROCK.
CAN YOU BE SERIOUS FOR ONCE?!
THEY MIGHT BE REALLY HURT!

JUST-
BE QUIET FOR A BIT, I DON'T WANT TALKING ROCKS TO FREAK THEM OUT.
AS YOU WISH, BABY BOY.
DON'T CALL ME THAT.

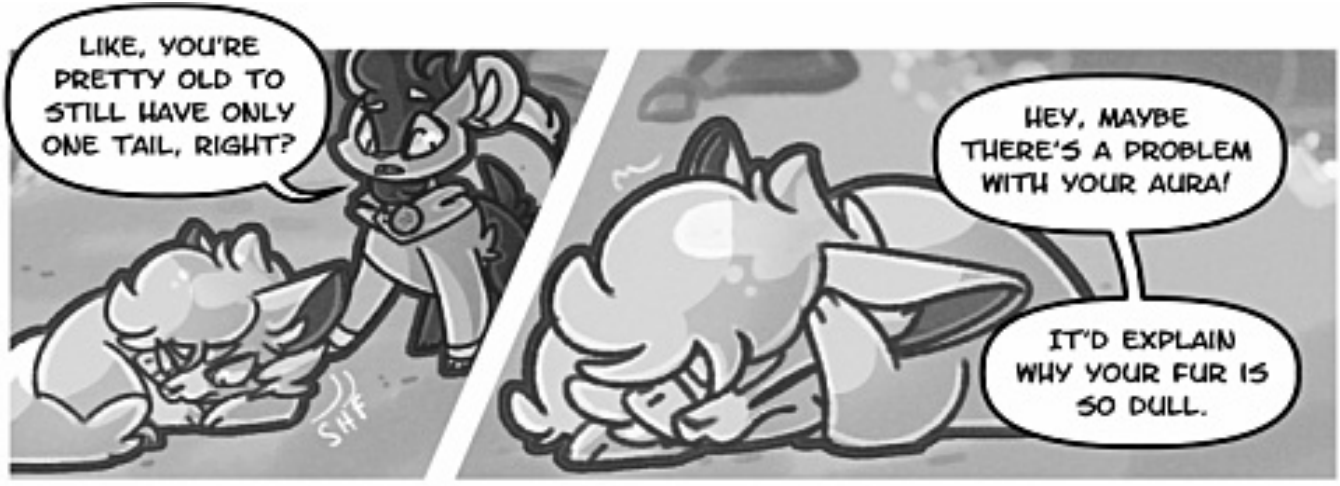
BZZ
HEY, ARE YOU-

BZZ AT


AAAAAHH-

AAAAAAAH!
!
H-HEY, IT'S ALRIGHT! JUST BREATHE.
I'M NOT GONNA HURT YOU... UM, AGAIN.
HFF...
S-SORRY!
IT'S JUST... WELL...
YOU LOOK HALF-DEAD.

YOU'RE A VULPIX, RIGHT?
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY COLORATION.
EVEN ICE VARIATIONS HAVE SOME COLOR.
NOT TO MENTION, UH... WHATEVER'S GOING ON WITH YOUR ARM THERE.
I'M NO DOCTOR, BUT I CAN TAKE A LOOK AT IT?
FWIP
THAT'S ODD... IT LOOKS LIKE IT ONLY STOPPED BLEEDING RECENTLY.
I WONDER IF VULPIX ARE KNOWN FOR FAST HEALING?
FUMP
I'VE SEEN SOME AROUND HERE, BUT NONE THAT LOOK LIKE YOU.



W-WAIT! STOP!

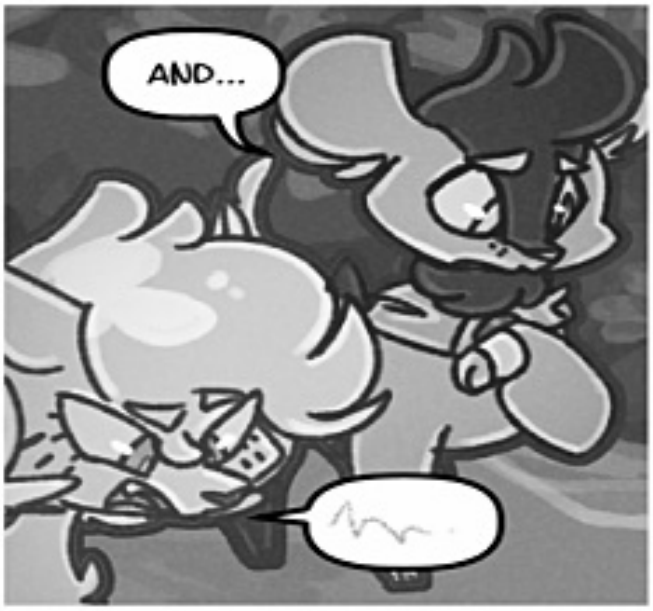
THAT'S A MYSTERY DUNGEON, YOU'LL GET LOST-!

Beach Cave B1F
Lv.5
SKSSSHHH-
SKRRRCH-!

RRRoooo
C'MON, I DIDN'T MEAN TO-!
OH, YOU DIDN'T MEAN TO STEP ON ME?
CRACK
DODGE
HOW DO YOU STEP ON A WHOLE POKEMON BY ACCIDENT?!
YOU WERE SO CLOSE TO THE GROUND-!
GAH!
...
Vulpix used TACKLE!

YOU CAME BACK!
QUICK, THIS WAY!
VVVVV...
WAIT.
CRRRCK!
SSSSSS
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?!

THIS CAVE IS A MYSTERY DUNGEON, IT'S DANGEROUS!
YOU COULD'VE BEEN HURT, OR WORSE! AND–


AND...

I WAS BEING OBNOXIOUS AGAIN, WASN'T I? HAH...

BUT STILL, IT'S NOT SAFE, ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE INJURED.
HOW'D YOU END UP ON THE SAND, ANYWAY?

YOU WHERE YOU BELONG.

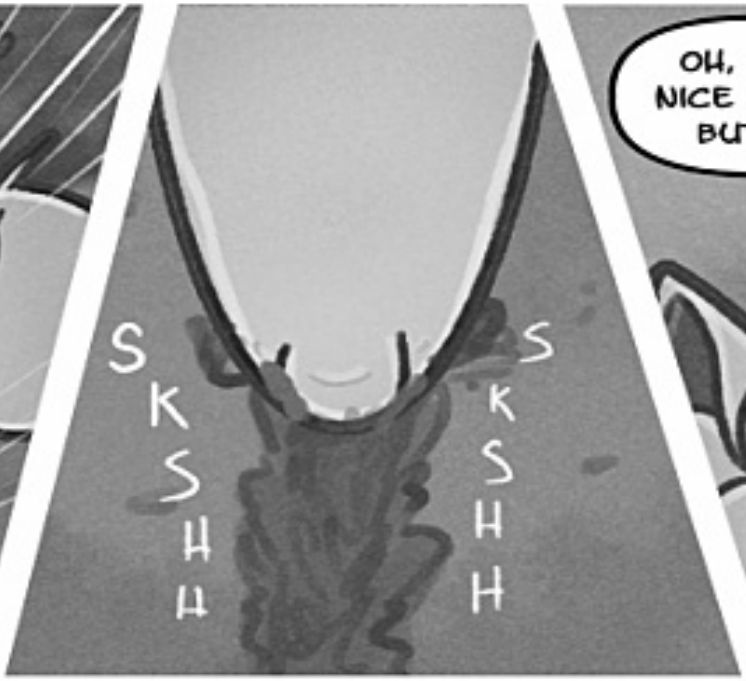
VULPIX?

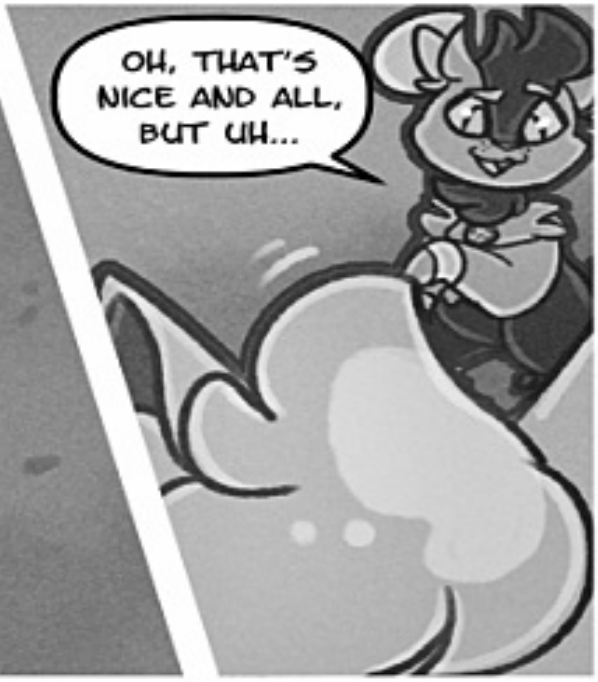
O-OH, I DIDN'T MEAN TO BE SO FORMAL, BUT YOU DIDN'T GIVE ME YOUR NAME.
OH YOU-
YOU CAN'T TALK!
I WISH YOU TOLD ME SOONER! I'VE JUST BEEN RAMBLING!
I'VE GOT IT.
LET'S DO CHARADES.

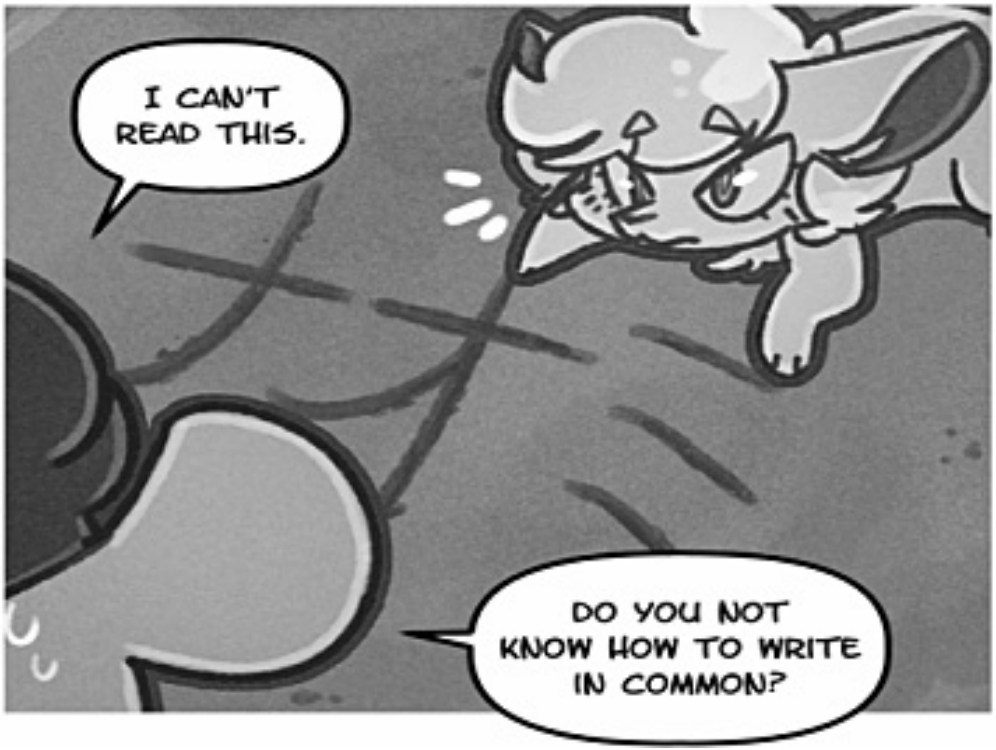
SHAKE
SHAKE

WELL I'M SORRY, BUT CHARADES IS OUR ONLY OPTION.
UNLESS YOU CAN WRITE.

FWIP!!


SKSHH
SKSHH


OH, THAT'S NICE AND ALL, BUT UH...


I CAN'T READ THIS.
DO YOU NOT KNOW HOW TO WRITE IN COMMON?

WELL, CHARADES IT IS!

WAVE
HELLO!

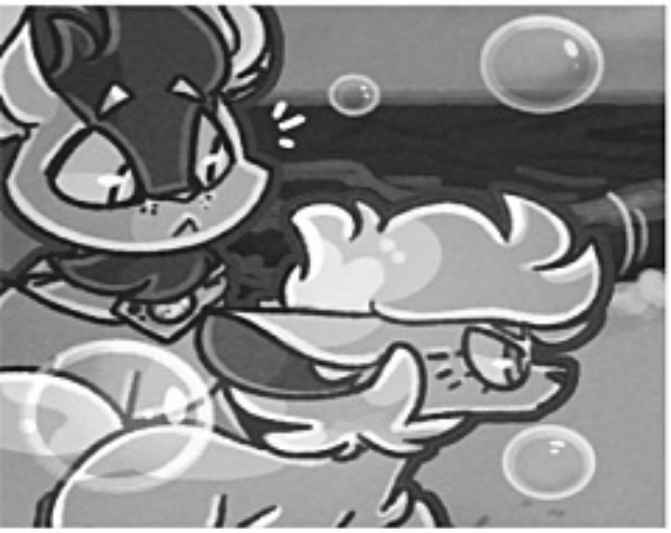
YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
SOMEONE USED X-SCISSOR ON YOU! OR-

NOD

WHAT? THAT- WHAT??
CAN'T SPEAK AND HAVE AMNESIA, HUH? SOUNDS WEIRD...

BUT USING MY BRILLIANT DEDUCTION SKILLS, I CAN FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!

SEEING AS THERE WAS A HUGE STORM LAST NIGHT,
REASON SHOWS YOU MUST HAVE FALLEN INTO THE OCEAN AFTER BONKING YOUR HEAD!
IT WOULD EXPLAIN YOUR INJURIES, AMNESIA, AND, UH...
ALSO THE MUTENESS??
CLOSE ENOUGH, RIGHT?
OH, THE KRABBY ARE OUT BLOWING BUBBLES...



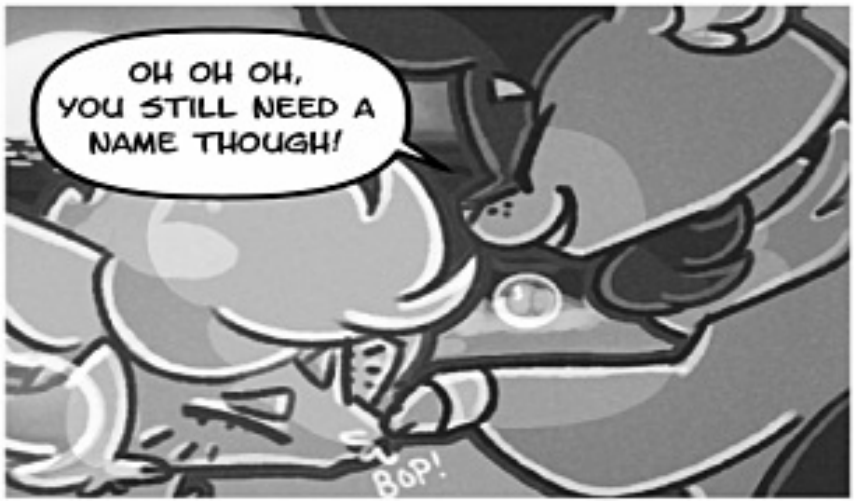
WHOA, WAIT, WE'RE NOT DOING THIS AGAIN.
YOU NEED REAL HELP.
AND IF YOU'RE GONNA GET IT, THE LOCAL GUILD IS YOUR BEST BET.

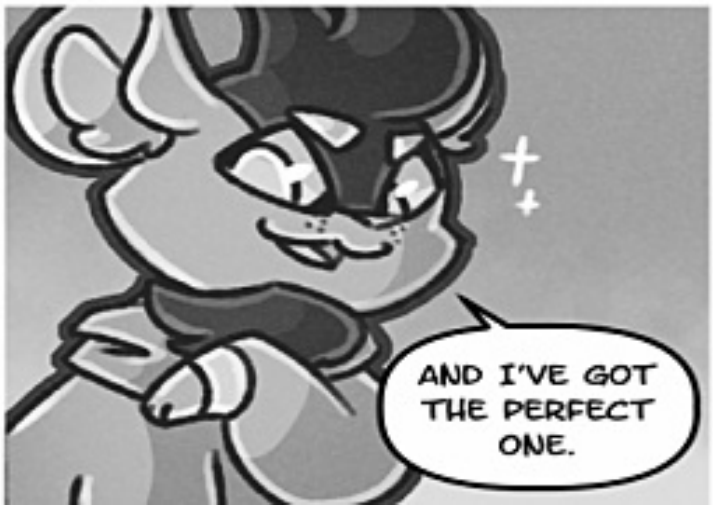
AND I INSIST YOU STAY WITH ME IN THE MEANTIME.
I COULDN'T LIVE WITH MYSELF IF I KNEW YOU WERE OUT THERE WITHOUT MEMORIES, A VOICE, OR ANYTHING!

PLEASE LET ME HELP YOU.
IT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR.

NOD

YAY! BEST FRIENDS!
AND AS BEST FRIENDS, WE DON'T HAVE TO CALL EACH OTHER BY SPECIES NAME ANYMORE!
SO YOU CAN CALL ME MALACHI INSTEAD OF SHINX-ER, WHATEVER!


OH OH OH, YOU STILL NEED A NAME THOUGH!
BOP!


AND I'VE GOT THE PERFECT ONE.

RUNE!
IT WORKS ON SO MANY LEVELS!
I MEAN THERE'S THE OBVIOUS BEING THAT YOU WRITE IN COOL ANCIENT RUNES OR SOMETHING.
ALSO, 1002 BABY NAMES SAYS RUNE MEANS "SECRET", WHICH I THINK COULD FIT YOUR POTENTIALLY DARK, THRILLING BACKSTORY!
PRETTY GOOD, EH? I'M A BIT OF A WORDSMITH.

-OH, WE'RE HERE!
THAT WASN'T TOO BAD OF A WALK, RIGHT?

SO UH, I ONLY HAVE ONE BED.

BUT LUCKY FOR YOU, THERE'S A FIELD WITH PLENTY OF GRASS HERE THAT YOU CAN USE TO MAKE YOUR OWN BED!
I'LL WORK ON DE CUISINE IN THE MEANTIME. THAT'S DINNER.

MY CHAMPION!

I WISH TO END THIS CRUEL VOW OF SILENCE YOU HAVE PLACED UPON ME!

FINE, FINE. BUT YOU CAN'T TALK AROUND RUNE, OKAY?

NOT UNTIL I KNOW SHE'S, Y'KNOW... COOL.

SHE APPEARS TO BE MUCH COOLER THAN YOU COULD EVER ASPIRE TO BE!

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!

SHE JUST RAN HEAD FIRST INTO A MYSTERY DUNGEON.

I RECALL!

I WAS SO SHOCKED I ALMOST CALLED OUT, BUT I UPHELD MY SILENCE JUST FOR YOU.

ZZT!

WELL, THANKS FOR THAT AT LEAST.

SSSSSSSS

WHY DO YOU WISH TO HELP HER?

I ADMITTEDLY FEEL... UNEASY AROUND HER.

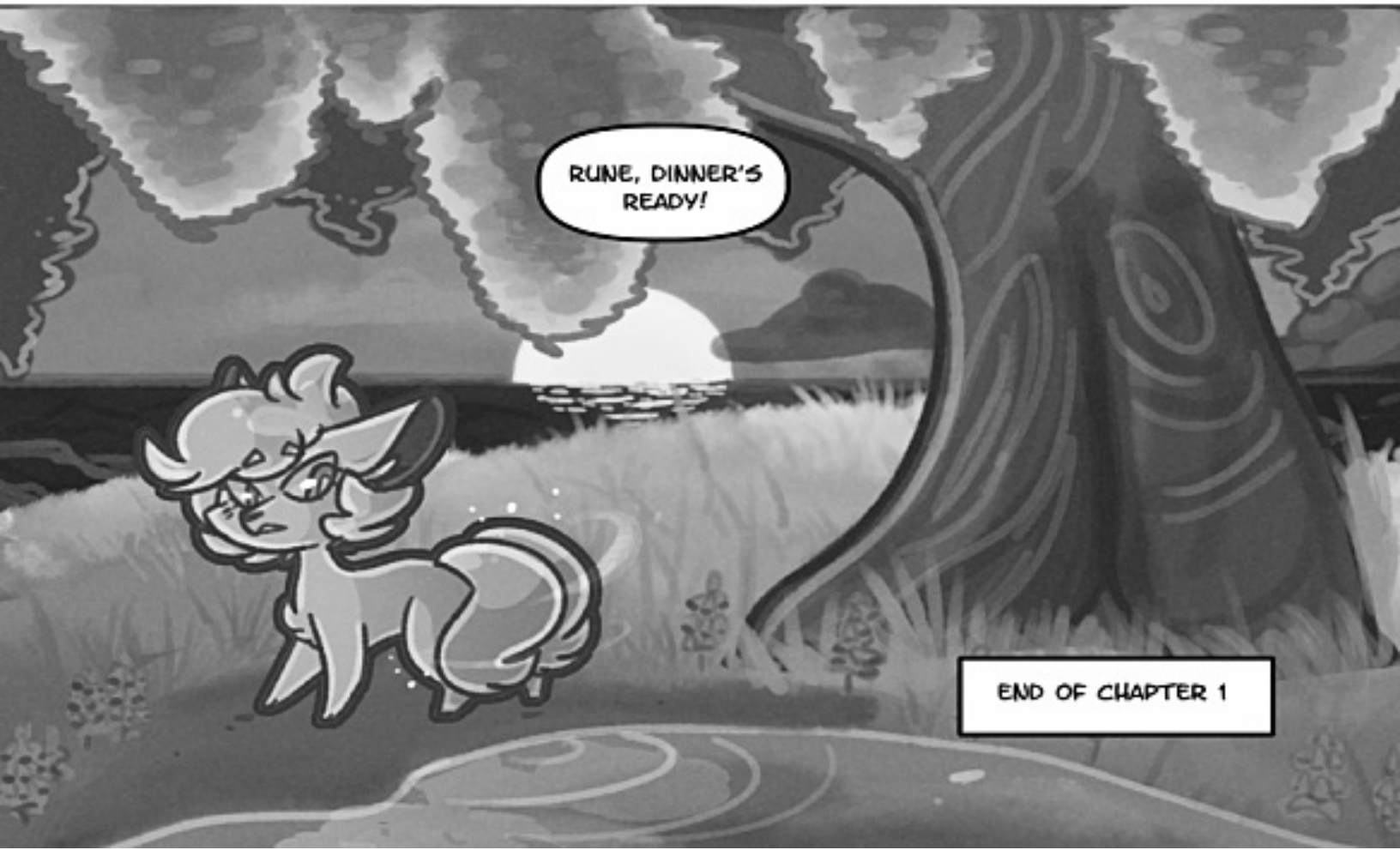
SSSSS

SSSKSHH

SAME REASON I'M HELPING YOU, MAELSTROM.
I WANT TO HELP HER REGAIN HER MEMORIES.
FUMP!
... WHAT DID I EXPECT TO HAPPEN?

... SO THAT'S WHAT I LOOK LIKE?
THEN WHY DOESN'T IT FEEL LIKE *ME*?

GLOOOOW...


RUNE, DINNER'S READY!
END OF CHAPTER 1

Chapter 2
The New Guild Recruits

ARE YOU SURE THE NEW TAIL DOESN'T HURT?
BECAUSE I'VE READ THAT SPLITTING TAILS CAUSES ACHES SOMETIMES-
AND Y'KNOW, WE COULD GET YOU-
HEY, IT'S JUST EXCITING! MAYBE IT'S A SIGN YOUR AURA IS COMING BACK!
FOR NOW THOUGH, WE SHOULD FOCUS ON GETTING DINNER FOR TONIGHT.
NOT TO BRAG, BUT I'M AN AMAZING CHEF, AND BAKED POTATOES ARE A SPECIALTY OF MINE.
AND THE BEST PLACE TO GET THOSE IS-
KECLEON MARKET!

?

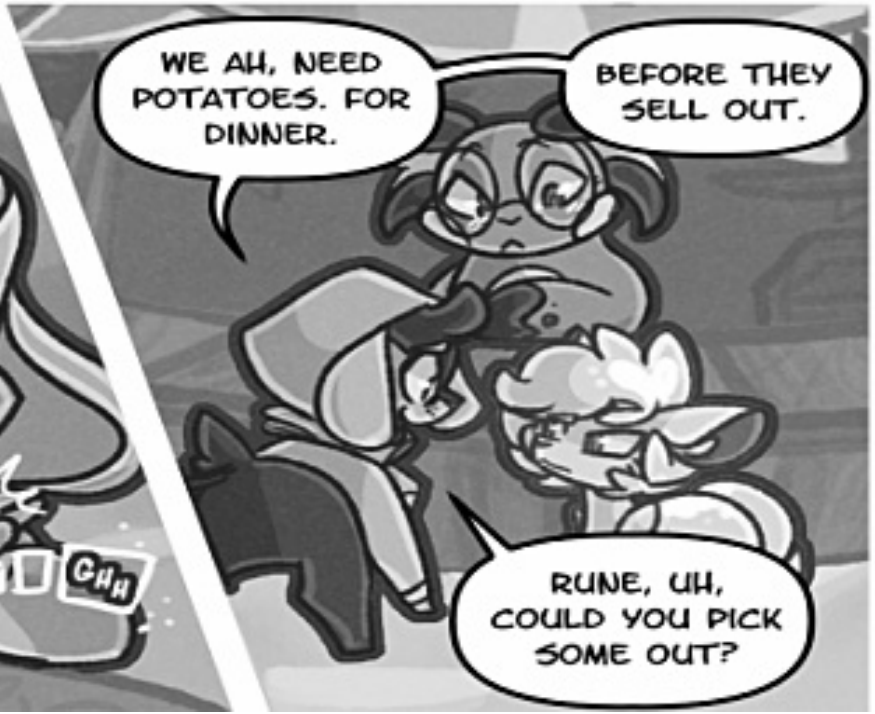
G'MORNING, MALACHI!

IT'S A CHAIN NAME, NOT ALL OF THEM ARE RUN BY KECLEONS.

CAUGHT WIND I WAS RESTOCKING, EH MALACHI?

AN' I SEE YE BROUGHT MAELSTROM-
HE-

HAHAHA, POTATOES!
??
CHH


WE AH, NEED POTATOES. FOR DINNER.
BEFORE THEY SELL OUT.
RUNE, UH, COULD YOU PICK SOME OUT?

WELL NO NEED TO SHOUT, LAD. WE GOT PLENTY.

THOUGH WIT' HOW OFTEN YE COME HERE YE OUGHTA GROW 'EM YERSELF.

I WOULD IF I HAD TIME, BUT I'VE GOT TO–

JOIN THE GUILD?

Y'KNOW YE'VE SAID THAT FER WEEKS NOW AN' YE STILL HAVEN'T SO MUCH AS STEPPED FOOT IN THERE.

I–I WILL SOON! DEFINITELY. I HAVE TO.

MY FRIEND HERE WASHED UP ON THE SHORE, SO SHE'LL NEED TO PUT IN A CLIENT REQUEST SOON.

THE SHORE? MY, THAT'S A TAD CONCERNIN'.

YOU CAN'T JUST TOUCH ANYTHING YOU WANT!
AURA CLOTH IS EXPENSIVE.
SNATCH

HM...
HUH? WHAT'S WRONG?

WELL, DINNAE MIND ME IF I'M OVERSTEPPIN' ANY BOUNDARIES, LAD,
BUT IT WAS A BIT STRANGE.

I CANNAE HELP BUT NOTICE THE LASSIE DIDNAE HAVE AN AURA, TOUCHIN' THE CLOTH.

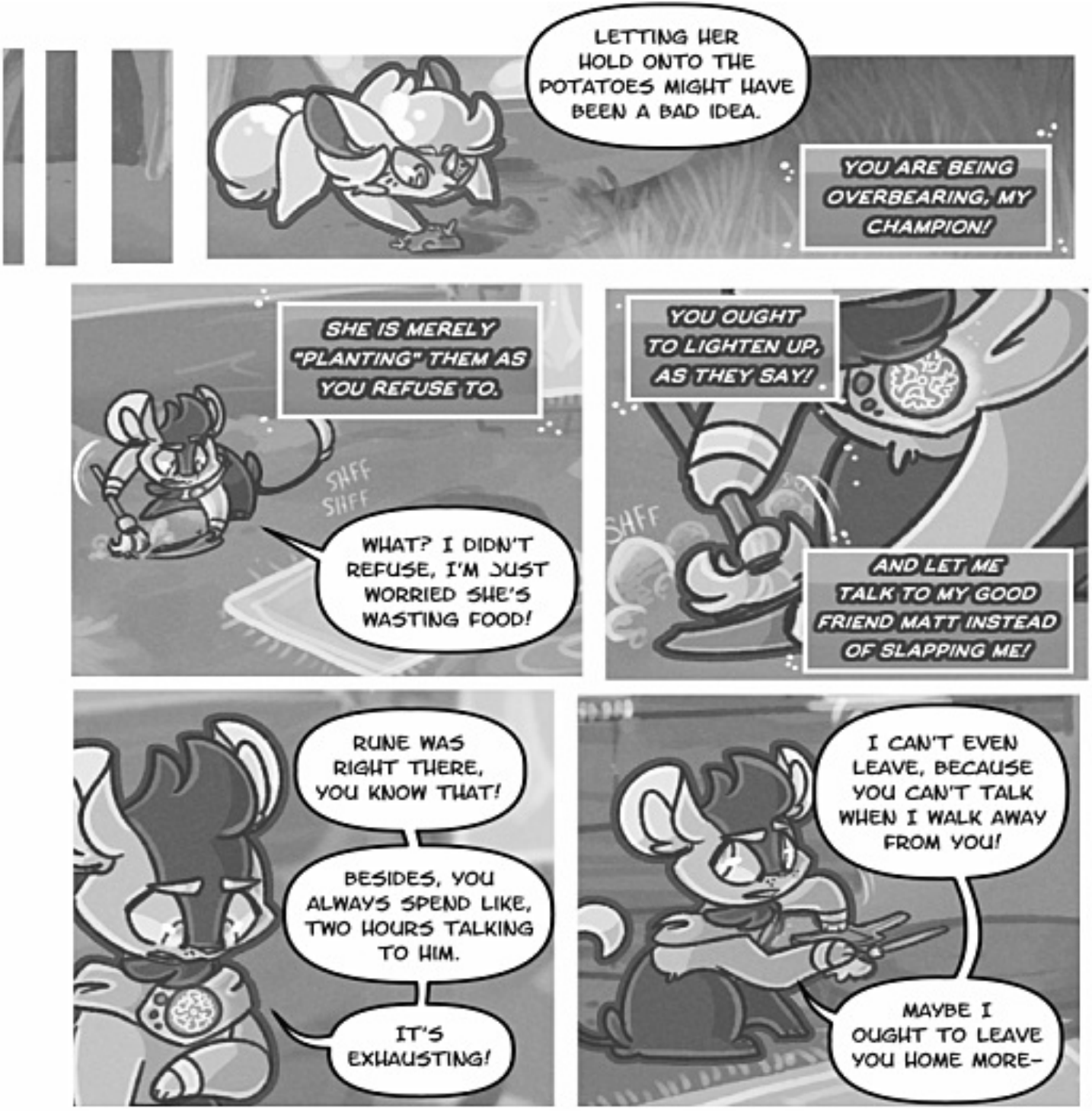
IS SHE FEELIN' ALRIGHT?

HA, WELL, YE ARE JUST STANDIN' RIGHT IN EARSHOT, AREN'T YE?
IT WAS A BIT RUDE O' ME T' NOT ASK YE MYSELF!
WELL LASSIE, AS LONG AS YER FEELIN' OKAY I S'POSE THERE AIN'T NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN, AURA OR NO.

YER HEADED TOWARD THE GUILD SOON, ARE YE? BEST O' LUCK!
AND PERHAPS THIS TIME YE'LL GET PAST THE FRONT DOOR.
OH– AN' SEND MY REGARDS TO OL' MAELSTROM, WOULD YE?

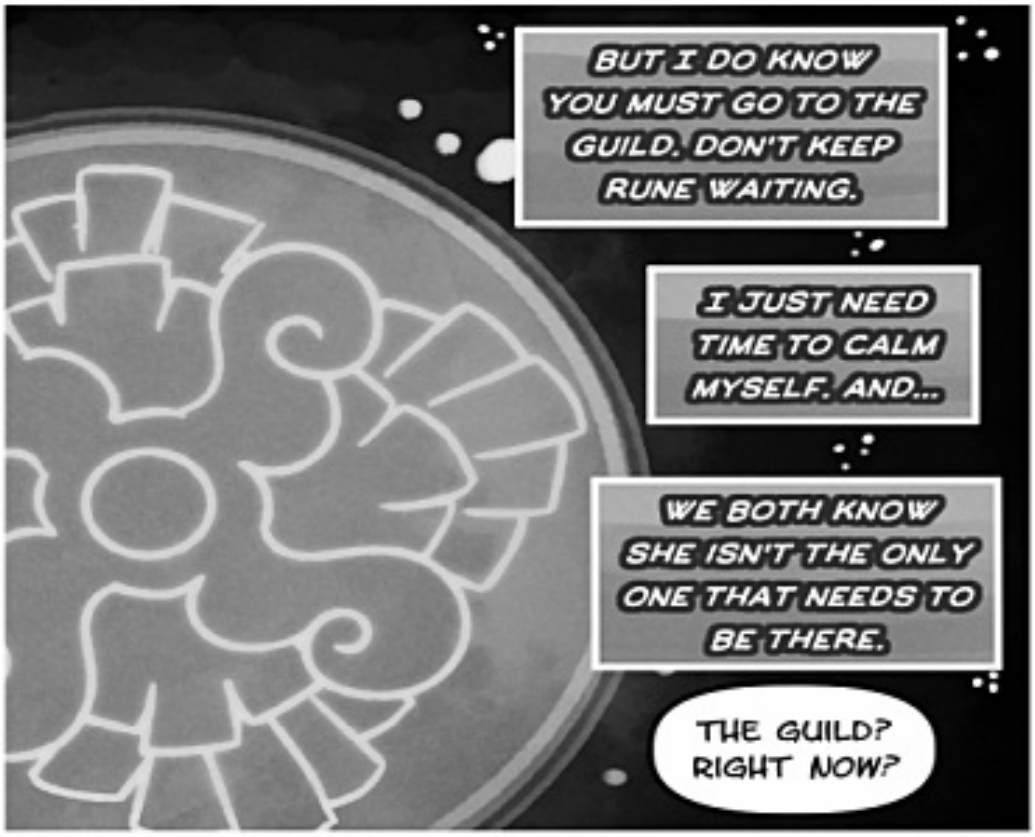
HAH. YEAH. SURE.

THANKS THOUGH.
I'M SURE SOMEONE OUT THERE REALLY MISSES RUNE.


LETTING HER HOLD ONTO THE POTATOES MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BAD IDEA.
YOU ARE BEING OVERBEARING, MY CHAMPION!
SHE IS MERELY "PLANTING" THEM AS YOU REFUSE TO.
SHFF SHFF
WHAT? I DIDN'T REFUSE, I'M JUST WORRIED SHE'S WASTING FOOD!
YOU OUGHT TO LIGHTEN UP, AS THEY SAY!
SHFF
AND LET ME TALK TO MY GOOD FRIEND MATT INSTEAD OF SLAPPING ME!
RUNE WAS RIGHT THERE, YOU KNOW THAT!
BESIDES, YOU ALWAYS SPEND LIKE, TWO HOURS TALKING TO HIM.
IT'S EXHAUSTING!
I CAN'T EVEN LEAVE, BECAUSE YOU CAN'T TALK WHEN I WALK AWAY FROM YOU!
MAYBE I OUGHT TO LEAVE YOU HOME MORE–

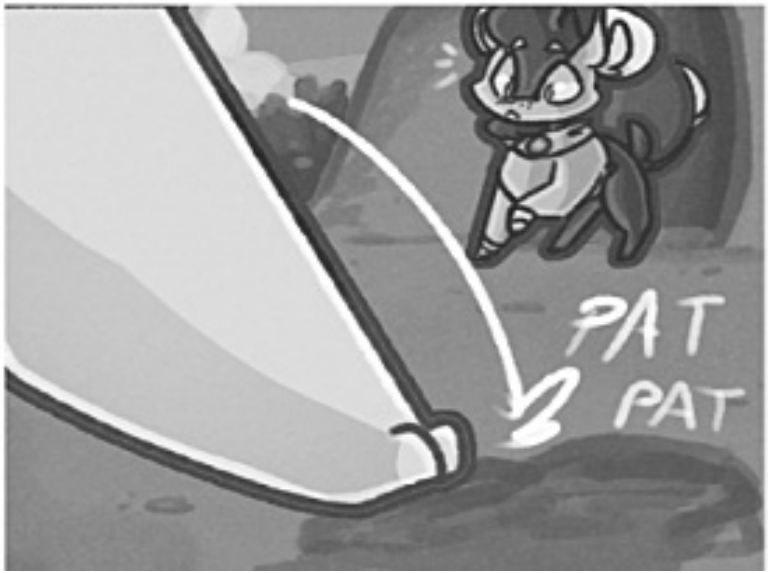
MAELSTROM!

ARE YOU OKAY?
I... APOLOGIES, MY CHAMPION. I JUST FELT AS IF SOMETHING WENT WRONG IN MY VERY CORE.
HUH? WHAT'S WRONG?
I... I DO NOT KNOW.


BUT I DO KNOW YOU MUST GO TO THE GUILD. DON'T KEEP RUNE WAITING.
I JUST NEED TIME TO CALM MYSELF. AND...
WE BOTH KNOW SHE ISN'T THE ONLY ONE THAT NEEDS TO BE THERE.
THE GUILD? RIGHT NOW?

FOO
OOSH

OKAY, OKAY...


PAT
PAT

OH COOL!
YOU JUST WENT AND PUT THOSE IN THE DIRT, HUH?
NOD?
OH, UH. THAT'S NOT WHY I CAME OUT THOUGH.
GOTTA HEAD TO THE GUILD! HAHA.
I KNOW YOU'RE SETTLING DOWN, BUT HEY!
MAYBE THEY WON'T FIND YOUR HOME RIGHT AWAY! YOU CAN STAY AS LONG AS YOU WA-
OH! UH,
YEAH, I CAN SHOW YOU THE WAY!
WAIT UP!

HAH...
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO BE BACK SO SOON...

EXPLORATION GUILDS SPECIALIZE IN RESEARCH, BUT THEY ALSO DO SMALLER TASKS FOR LOCALS.
JOBS,
ERRANDS,
THEY'RE BOUND TO KNOW HOW TO HELP YOU. WE JUST HAVE TO, UH...

GET THROUGH THE FOOTPRINT SENTRY.
I'M... NOT A BIG FAN.

HEY! HOW ABOUT YOU GIVE IT A SHOT!
...

FUMP!

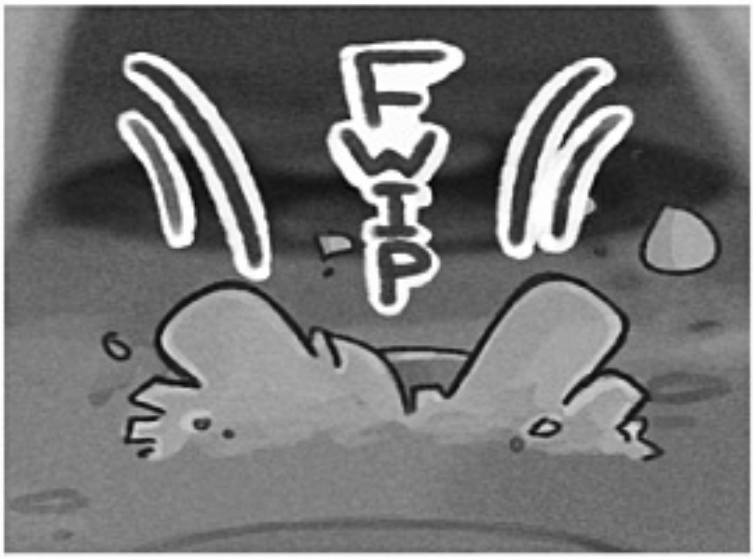
POKEMON DETECTED

WHOSE FOOTPRINT?
IT'S... UM...
UM?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "UM"?!
WELL I DUNNO! LET ME CHECK!

CRACK

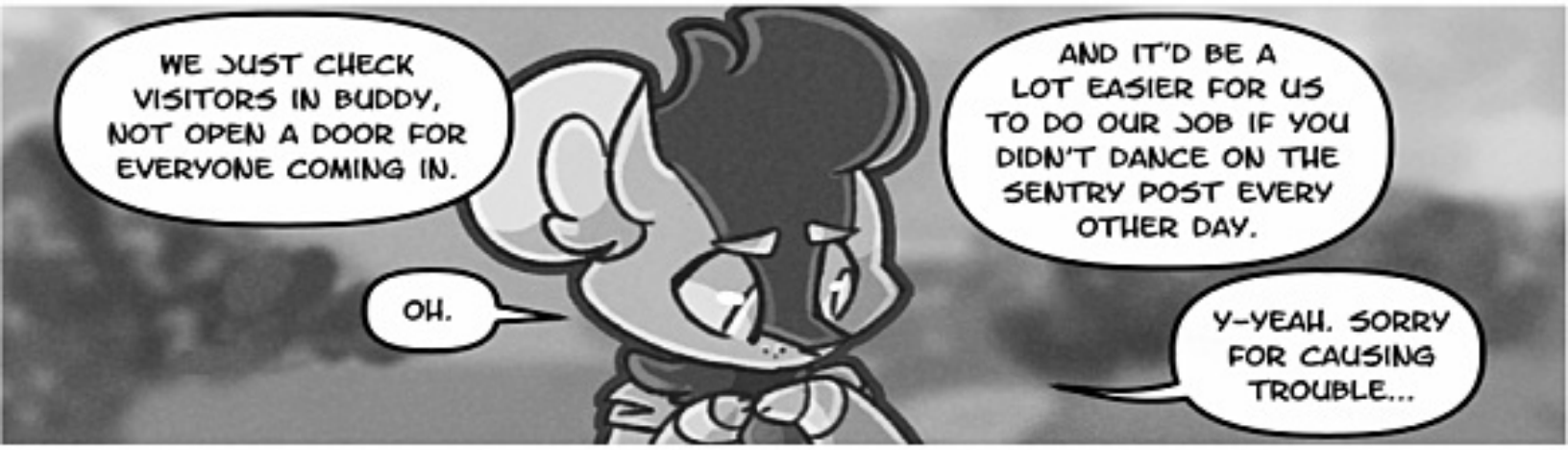
POP!
OH!

NO WONDER I DIDN'T KNOW, IT'S ONE OF *THOSE* VULPIX!
(AND *THAT* GUY IS HERE TOO.)

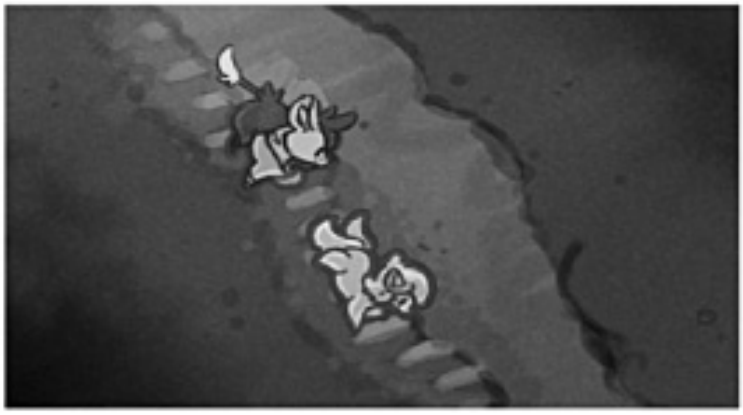

FWIP

??

DOES... THAT MEAN WE'RE ALLOWED IN?
WHAT?
IS THERE A GATE STOPPING YOU?
UH, NO...


WE JUST CHECK VISITORS IN BUDDY, NOT OPEN A DOOR FOR EVERYONE COMING IN.
AND IT'D BE A LOT EASIER FOR US TO DO OUR JOB IF YOU DIDN'T DANCE ON THE SENTRY POST EVERY OTHER DAY.
OH.
Y-YEAH. SORRY FOR CAUSING TROUBLE...

LADIES FIRST?



EHH, THE SPOINK PEARL MISSION IS TOO EASY.

BARKBARK BARKBARKBARK BARK

DUDE, DON'T TALK WITH YOUR MOUTH FULL.

JUST ONE MORE JOB AND WE'LL BE BRONZE RANK!

WHAT DO YOU *MEAN* YOU COULDN'T FIND ANY REFUGEES?!

WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT SPECIES TO LOOK OUT FOR...

THERE'S A *LOT* MORE POKEMON HERE THAN I THOUGHT.

IS IT TRUE THEY TAKE 90% OF OUR EARNINGS?

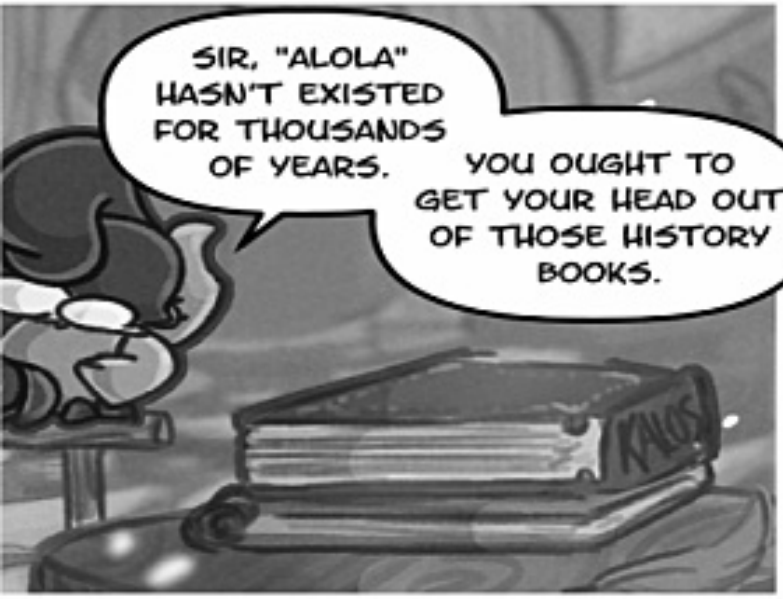
IF YOU WERE COMPETENT EXPLORERS, WE WOULDN'T HAVE THE REFUGEES ARRIVING ON OUR DOORSTEP.
YOU'RE EXCUSED.
APOLOGIES.
WE'VE BEEN ON EDGE SINCE WE GOT THE TIP FROM TREESHROUD.
BUT IT SEEMS AT LEAST ONE OF YOU IS SAFE AND SOUND.
H-HELLO SIR! SHE DIDN'T MEAN TO BOTHER YOU, SHE JUST HAS AMNESIA AND CAN'T TALK AND WE'RE TRYING TO GET HER HOME-
SAVE IT.
I'LL REQUEST AN AUDIENCE WITH THE GUILDMASTER.
PLEASE MEET ME ON THE LOWER LEVEL.
WE'RE MEETING THE GUILDMASTER DIRECTLY?!
SHOOP

TOO LATE TO BACK OUT NOW, HUH...
?!??
I JUST DON'T FEEL READY!
SEE, YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY REASON WE'RE AT THE GUILD.
I PROMISED A...
FRIEND...
THAT I'D JOIN AN EXPLORATION TEAM TO HELP HER.
THE RESEARCH TOOLS FOR TEAMS IS USED TO HELP POKEMON LIKE YOU AND HER.
GUILDS HELP REUNITE FAMILIES,
DELIVER JUSTICE,
AND DIVE INTO UNCHARTED REGIONS.
BUT IT'S ALSO REALLY DANGEROUS.
SOME EXPLORERS JUST DON'T COME HOME.
I NEED TO JOIN TO HELP HER, BUT...
WHAT IF I DON'T COME BACK?

LUXIO, YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED!
I'M NOT A LUXIO...
I ASKED YOU TO MEET ME DOWN HERE.
SORRY.
WE MUSN'T KEEP THE GUILDMASTER WAITING. HE'S A BUSY MAN.
IT SEEMS TO BE NO COINCIDENCE YOUR AMNESIAC FRIEND HAS ARRIVED NOW OF ALL TIMES.
OH MY BEAUTIFUL BOY!! HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME SOME GOOD PALS??
WOOSH

SIR, THESE TWO HAVE AN *INTERESTING* PREDICAMENT, TO SAY THE LEAST.
THE BOY SAID IN SOME FLURRY THAT THE VULPIX HAS AMNESIA AND IS UNABLE TO SPEAK.
I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE SHE'S A TREESHROUD REFUGEE.
WHAT? WHY?
TREESHROUD ISN'T EVEN *CLOSE* TO THE BAY, LET ALONE THIS *CONTINENT!*
SHE HAD *THESE* SCARS WHEN I FOUND HER!
CHOMP!
WELL YOU CAME TO *US* FOR HELP.
DO *YOU* HAVE ANY OTHER LEADS?
... NO, BUT WHY WOULD YOU THINK SHE'S FROM *THERE?*
THE ONLY ALOLAN VULPIX TRIBE IS IN TREESHROUD, SILLY!
I'M SORRY, THE *WHAT* TRIBE?

OH SO-RRY! ALOLA DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE, HUH?


SIR, "ALOLA" HASN'T EXISTED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.
YOU OUGHT TO GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF THOSE HISTORY BOOKS.
KALOS

YOU MIGHT KNOW THEM AS "KEOKEO" VULPIX NOWADAYS.

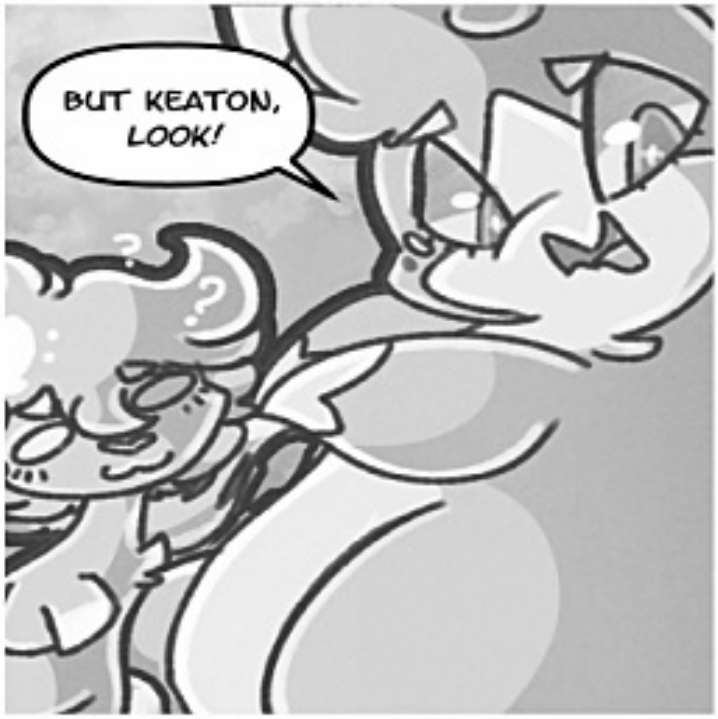
OH, I KNOW THEM! THEY'RE THE ICE-TYPE SPECIALISTS!

WAIT, WHAT'S GOING ON IN TREESHROUD?

OH WELL YOU SEE-

SIR!
ARE YOU SURE WE SHOULD BE TELLING THEM THIS?
IT'S NOT PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE YET!

AND THE LUXIO-
-SHINX.
THINKS SHE'S NOT EVEN INVOLVED!


BUT KEATON, LOOK!

THIS SCAR LOOKS LIKE A BAD BOY WITH TWO CLAWS GOT IT!
LIKE THE CRIMINAL'S DESCRIPTION, YES.

SIGH, WELL PERHAPS SHE HAD A BAD RUN-IN WITH THEM AND KNOCKED HER HEAD TRYING TO GET HELP.

SIGH
HMPH, YOU ARE THE GUILDMASTER. IF YOU FIND THESE TWO TRUSTWORTHY, YOU MAY DO AS YOU PLEASE.

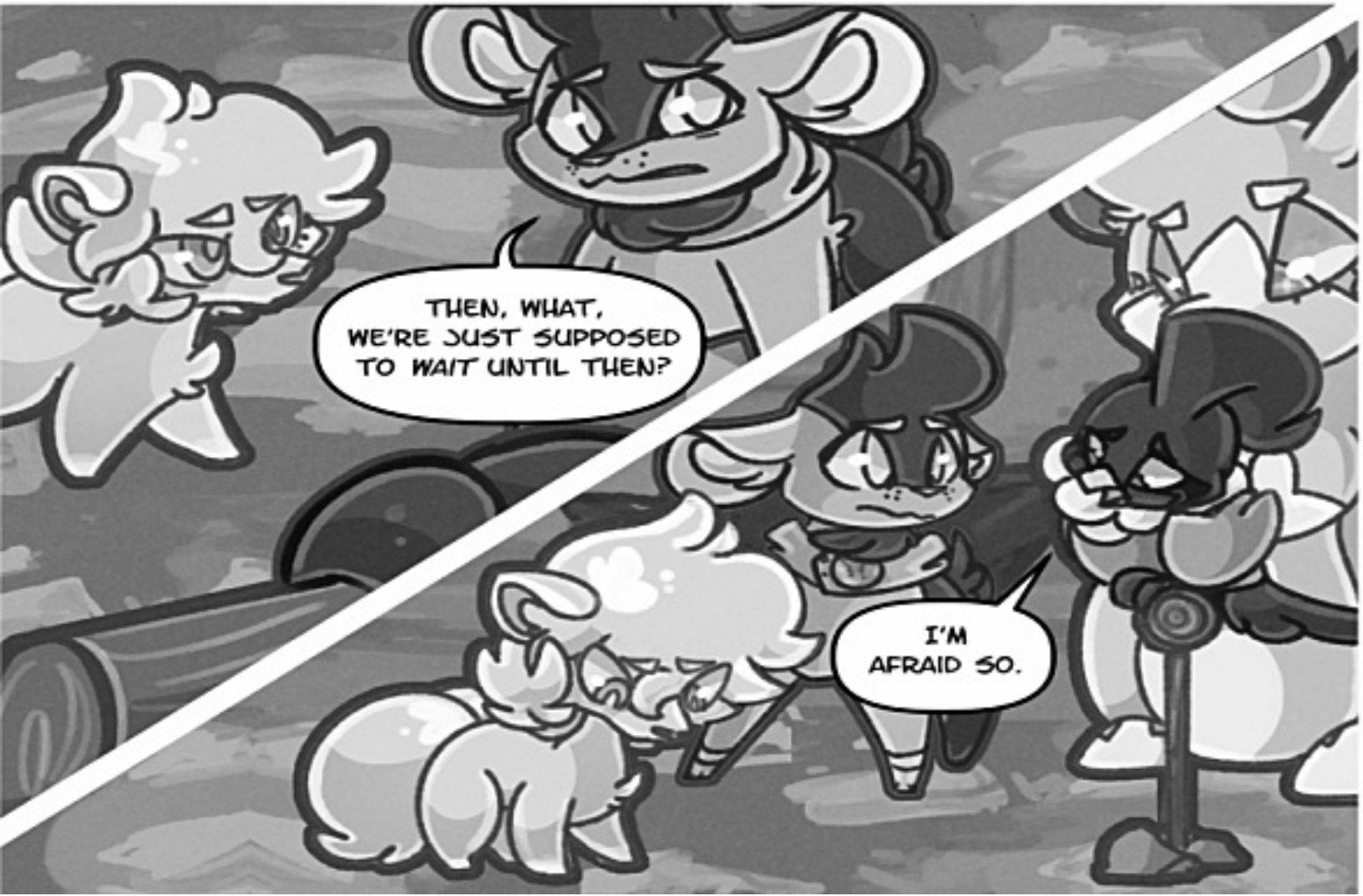
YAY! THANKS KEATON, YOU'RE THE BEST!
SEE, LAST NIGHT WE GOT A TIP THAT A BAD BAD GUY WAS GONNA STEAL A TIME GEAR!
WE'RE PERFORMING AN EMERGENCY EVACUATION BEFORE THAT CAN HAPPEN.
TIME GEARS...?
THE ARTIFACTS THAT "CONTROL TIME", THAT'S NOT A MYTH?!
THEN THAT'S A HUGE DEAL! WHY AREN'T YOU PURSUING THE THIEF?!
OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY IS KEEPING CITIZENS AND OUR TEAMS SAFE.
WE STILL DON'T KNOW THE INTENDED PURPOSE OF THE TIME GEARS, OR HOW DIRE THIS SITUATION IS. WE NEED TIME TO PREPARE.
WE CAN RETRIEVE THE TIME GEAR LATER. WE CAN'T RETRIEVE LOST LIVES.

AND WHAT ABOUT RUNE?
IF THERE REALLY IS NO WAY TO STOP THIS RIGHT NOW...
IF SHE IS FROM TREESHROUD...
WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO HER?
WE ARE EXPECTING THE PERPETRATOR TO SUCCEED IN TAKING THE TIME GEAR.
AND IF THAT HAPPENS...
WE CAN ONLY ASSUME TIME WILL STOP THERE. INDEFINITELY.
SHE WON'T HAVE A HOME.

WAIT, SO SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE HER FRIENDS OR FAMILY AGAIN?

NOBODY SAID THAT, YA GOOSE!

OUR TEAMS HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED TO HELP WITH JUST THAT.
WE'LL ALERT YOU WHEN WE FIND THEM.


THEN, WHAT, WE'RE JUST SUPPOSED TO WAIT UNTIL THEN?
I'M AFRAID SO.

I WANNA HELP, TOO!

PFFFFF-

THE THOUGHT IS APPRECIATED,
BUT WE ONLY HAVE OUR BEST TEAMS ON THE CASE RIGHT NOW.

YOU AND YOUR LITTLE FRIEND CAN LEAVE THIS TO THE PROFESSIONALS.

N... NO, I REALLY WANT TO HELP.
I WANT TO BE IN AN EXPLORATION TEAM.

YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU WANT AN ESTEEMED GUILD TO ENDORSE A TEAM COMPROMISED OF...
INSIGNIFICANT POKEMON, SUCH AS YOURSELVES?

I DON'T SEE WHY NOT!

S-SIR, I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND.
WE CAN'T RECRUIT WHAT CONSTITUTES AS A CLIENT!
SHE HAS AMNESIA AND HAS BEEN DISPLACED FROM HER HOME!
AND WE CERTAINLY CAN'T RECRUIT SOMEONE AS...
INDECISIVE, AS THE LUXIO.
SHINX.
EXACTLY MY POINT.
AND WHY NOT?

KEATON, YOU'RE A VERY GOOD FRIEND OF MINE!

BUT WOULD'JA HAVE RECRUITED ME WHEN I WAS A HELPLESS IGGLYBUFF?

SIR, THAT'S NOT COMPARABLE.

GUESS WHAT!

WHAT.

I'M THE GUILDMASTER, AND YOU'RE NOT!
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, YA GOOB! HEHE!
TOMORROW'S OKAY FOR A FIELD TEST, RIGHT?

NOD
NOD

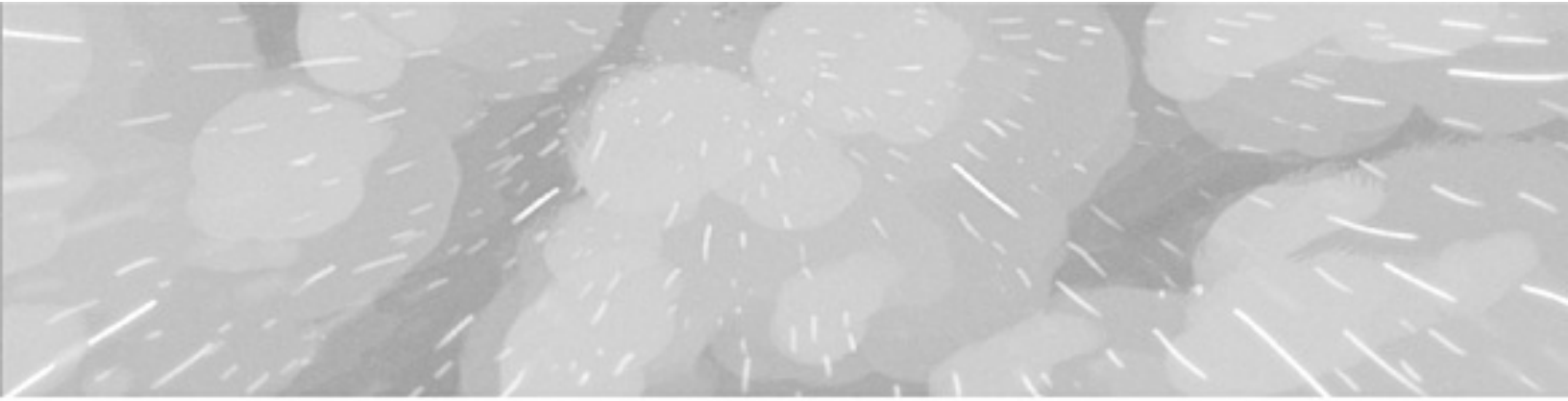
YOU'RE OKAY WITH THIS TOO, RIGHT?

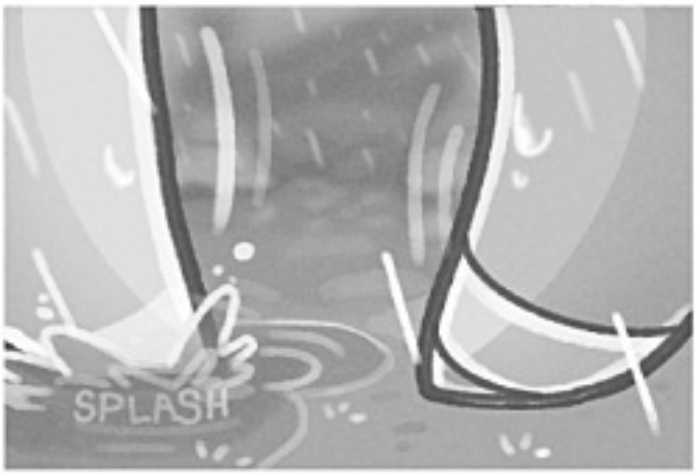
NOD
GREAT!

HERE IS WHAT WE WILL DO.
SIGH
I WILL COMPOSE AN EXPLORATION-BASED ENTRANCE EXAM.

IF YOU PASS, YOU GET OUR ENDORSEMENT.
IF YOU FAIL, (WHICH I SUSPECT YOU WILL,)
YOU WILL BE BLACKLISTED FROM NEARBY GUILDS AS POTENTIAL TEAM CANDIDATES.

DO WE HAVE A DEAL?



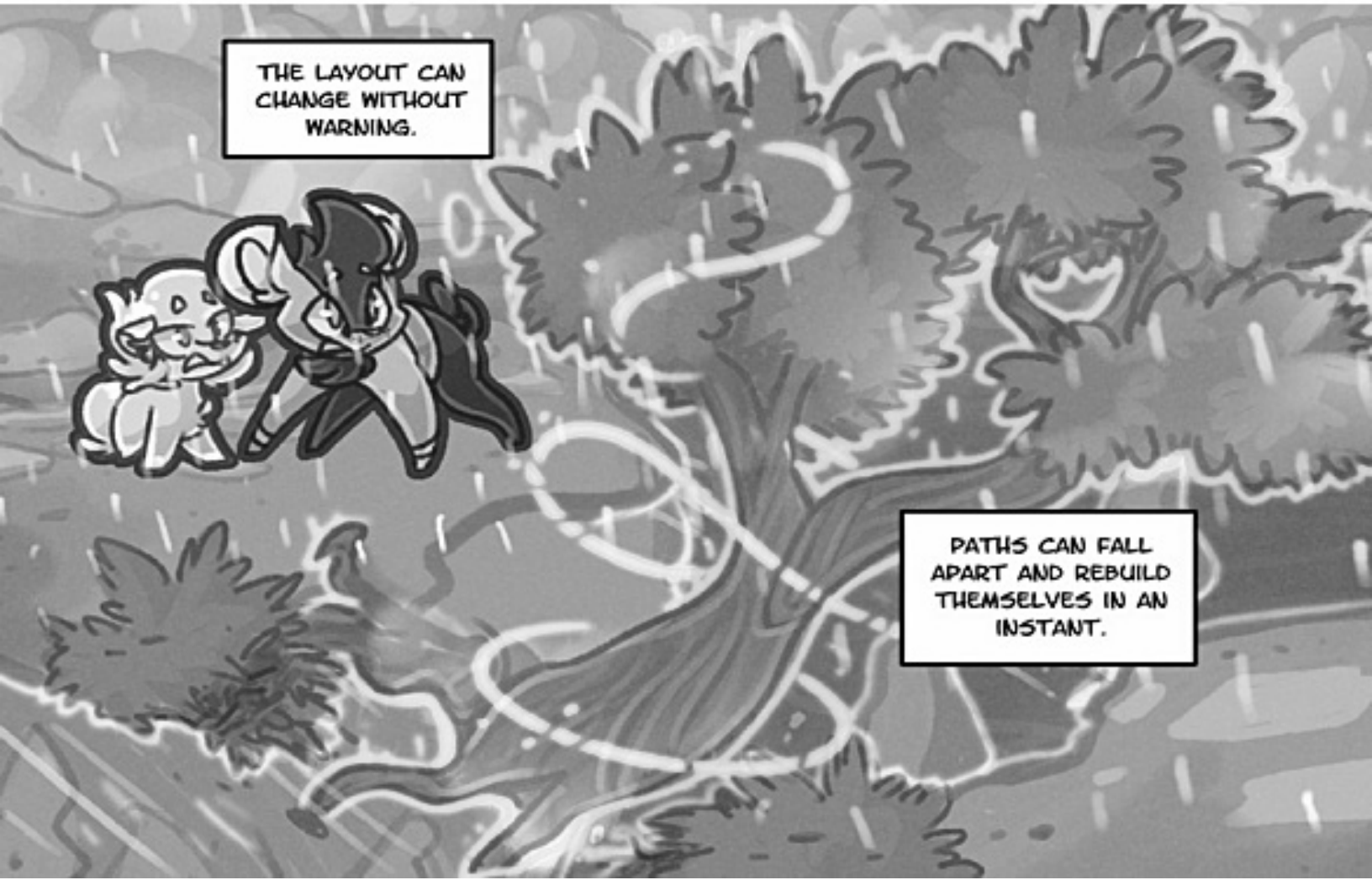


Drenched Bluff 1F Lv. 6

THE GOAL OF THIS FIELD TEST IS TO RETRIEVE A PEARL OF ONE OF OUR CLIENTS, A SPOINK.
DRENCHED BLUFF IS A RELATIVELY SAFE ENVIRONMENT.

BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY,

IT'S STILL A *MYSTERY DUNGEON.*


THE LAYOUT CAN CHANGE WITHOUT WARNING.
PATHS CAN FALL APART AND REBUILD THEMSELVES IN AN INSTANT.

WE WILL SUPPLY YOU WITH ALL THE THINGS YOU NEED TO SUCCEED.
YOU MAY NOT BRING YOUR OWN ITEMS INTO THIS FIELD TEST.

OH WOW, THESE EXPLORATION GUILDS DON'T PLAY AROUND!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH A TREASURE BAG LIKE THIS COSTS?

THIS THING HAS A POCKET DIMENSION AND EVERYTHING!

THEY'VE EVEN GOT ORBS!

THIS REALLY IS SOME HIGH-END GEAR...
WOOP

I WONDER WHAT ELSE WE-
CRACK

FSSSSH

TO PASS THE TEST,

YOU MUST FIND THE PEARL AND EXHIBIT TRAITS THAT WE FIND SUITABLE FOR TEAM LEADERS.
VOOOSH...

AAAH RUNE, YOU JUST WASTED A ROLLCALL ORB!
IF AT ANY POINT YOU FEEL LIKE YOUR LIFE IS AT RISK, YOU SHOULD USE AN ESCAPE ORB.

IT'S BETTER THAT YOU FORFEIT THE MISSION THAN HARM YOURSELVES.

I'LL BE MONITORING YOUR PROGRESS AS YOU GO ALONG.

BUT I CANNOT INTERFERE AT ANY POINT.
THIS IS GONNA BE A LONG DAY.

YOU WILL INSTANTLY FAIL IF EITHER OF YOU *FAINT* OR RECEIVE MORE THAN FIVE PENALTIES.

PENALTIES INCLUDE,

ENDANGERING YOURSELF OR OTHERS,

DAMAGING THE DUNGEON'S ENVIRONMENT,

IRRESPONSIBLE USAGE OF YOUR ABILITIES,

AND IRRITATING NATIVE POKEMON.

BEST OF LUCK TO YOU TWO.

UH OH.

BZZ

ZZT

BZZZAT

O-OH I'M SO SORRY-

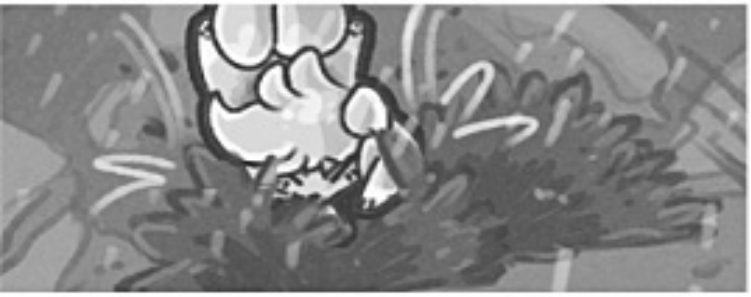
A-ARE YOU-?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!

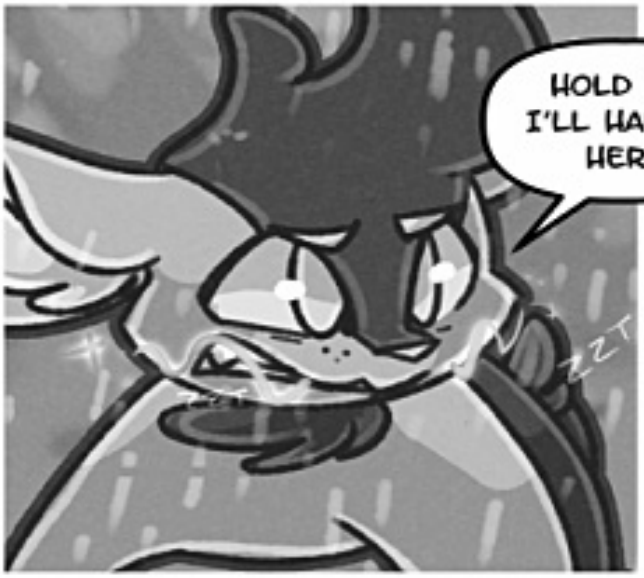
AND YOU-

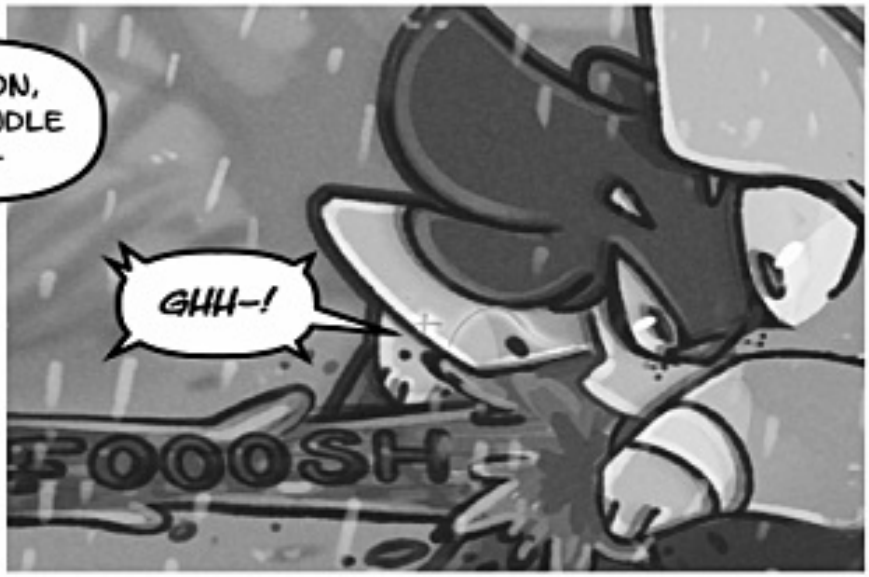
SLAM
- CAN GET OUT OF HERE TOO!

CRITICAL!!!

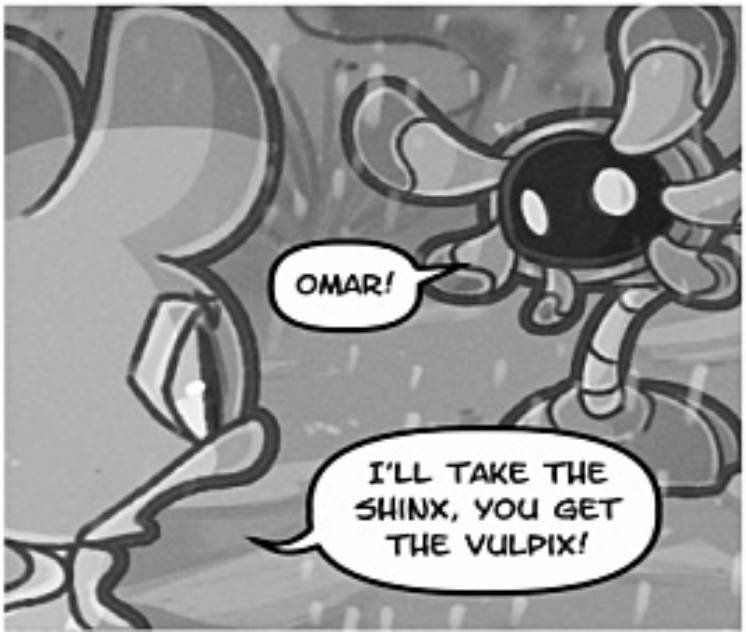


RUNE!

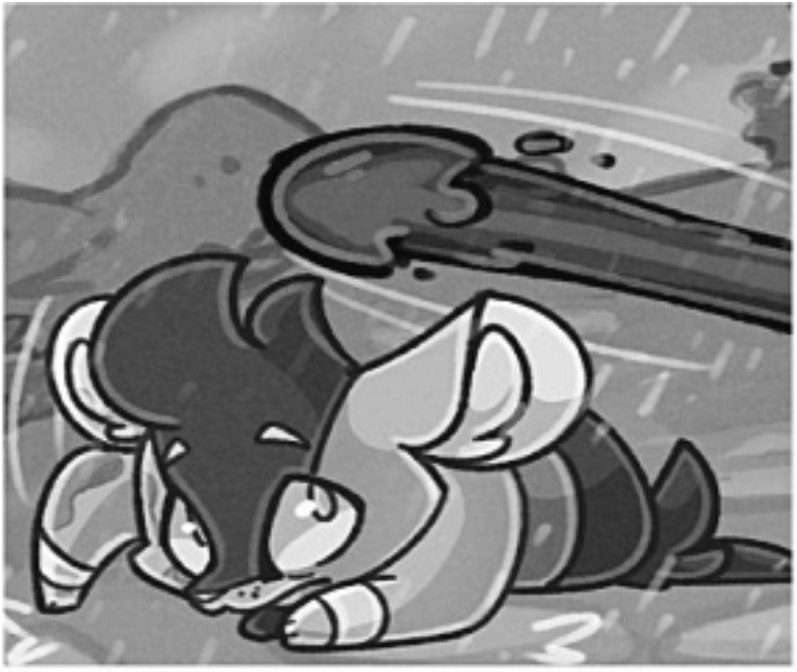

HOLD ON, I'LL HANDLE HER–
ZZT

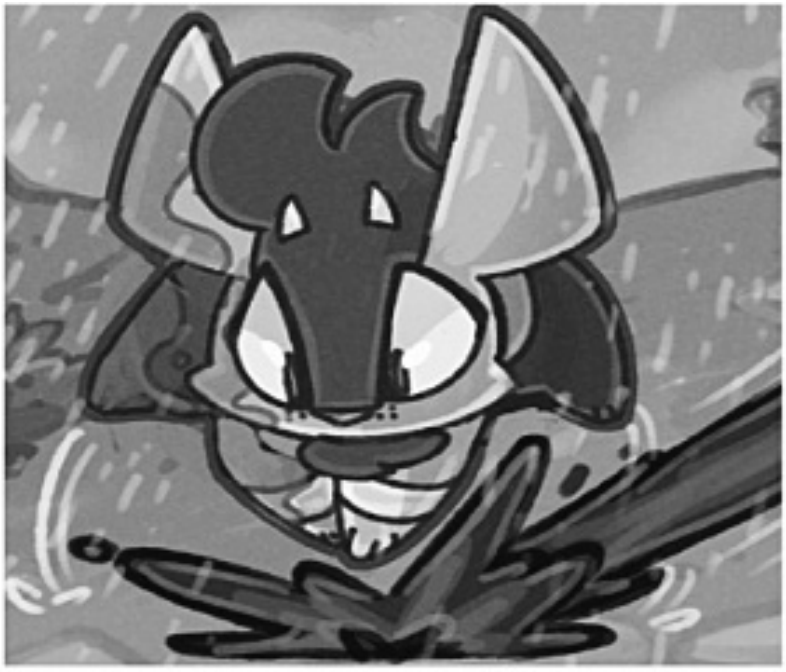

GHH–!
FOOOSH

TWO ON ONE? YOU EXPLORATION TEAMS REALLY ARE JUST BULLIES.
NEED A HAND, MOLLIE?


OMAR!
I'LL TAKE THE SHINX, YOU GET THE VULPIX!

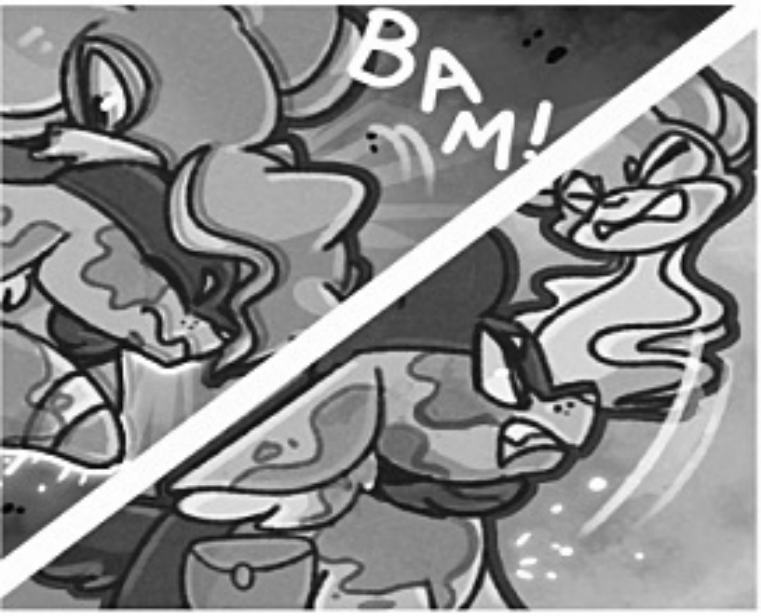
DODGE
MISS
SPOOSH





THE MUD DAMPENED MY ELECTRICITY...!

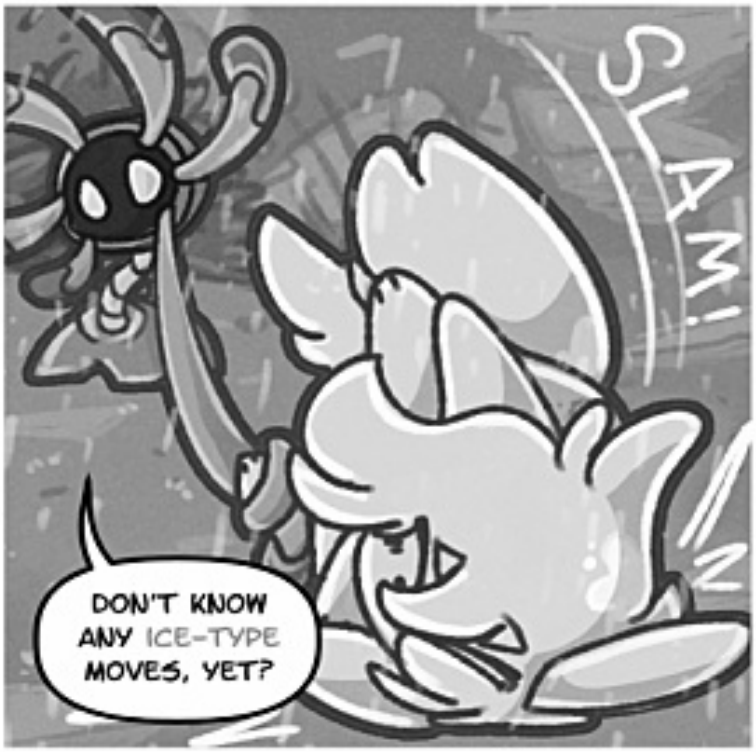
FINE, I'VE STILL GOT QUICK ATTACK-!


BAM!

SKIIID

SWIPE!

WHAT'S WRONG?


SLAM!
DON'T KNOW ANY ICE-TYPE MOVES, YET?

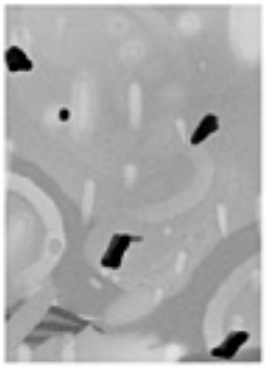
ALL YOU SO-CALLED "TREASURE HUNTERS" ARE THE SAME.
BEATING US UP, TAKING OUR THINGS WHILE THE DUNGEON TELEPORTS US ON THE OUTSKIRTS...
HOW ABOUT YOU SEE HOW IT FEELS, HUH? TRY NOT TO SQUIRM.

WOOSH

THWACK!

I APOLOGIZE ON BEHALF OF OUR GUILD.
THESE TWO DIDN'T MEAN TO CAUSE A DISTURBANCE.
WE CAN REIMBURSE YOU AT OUR LOCAL BASE FOR THE TROUBLE.
BUT DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON THEM.

SSSUH



...
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH.

SSSSS
NO THANKS. YOU'VE DONE PLENTY.
I'LL GRAB MY FRIEND AND GO.

YOU FAILED.

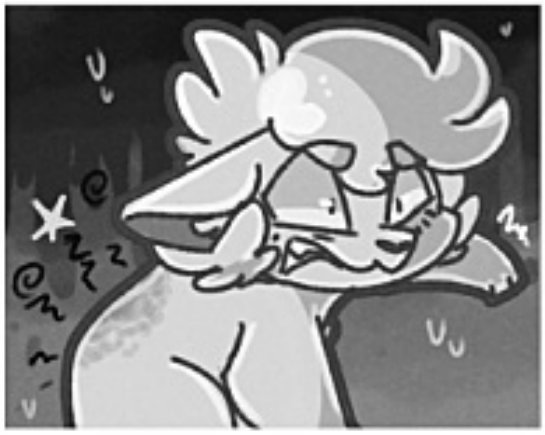
HERE ARE YOU THINGS. I'LL REPORT YOUR RESULTS TO THE GUILD.

CAN WE GET ANOTHER CHANCE PLEASE?

WE HAD A DEAL. AND WE DON'T NEED MORE RECKLESSNESS IN THE GUILD.

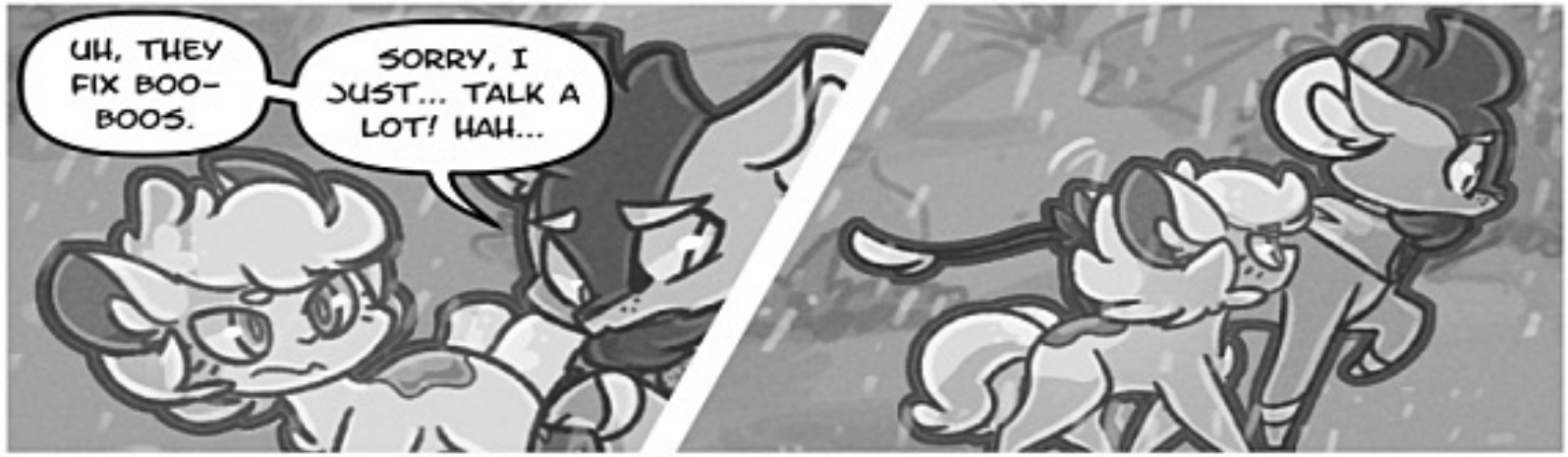
WE'LL NOTIFY YOU WHEN OUR *LICENSED* TEAMS FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUR FRIEND'S SITUATION.

GOOD DAY.



ORAN BERRIES ARE GOOD FOR SMALL INJURIES LIKE THIS.

GROWING IN A DUNGEON GIVES THEM PROPERTIES THAT HELPS PROMOTE CELL GROWTH AND-


UH, THEY FIX BOO-BOOS.
SORRY, I JUST... TALK A LOT! HAH...

SPEAKING OF TALKING,
DO YOU FEEL ANY BETTER YET? FEELING ANY AURA COMING BACK?

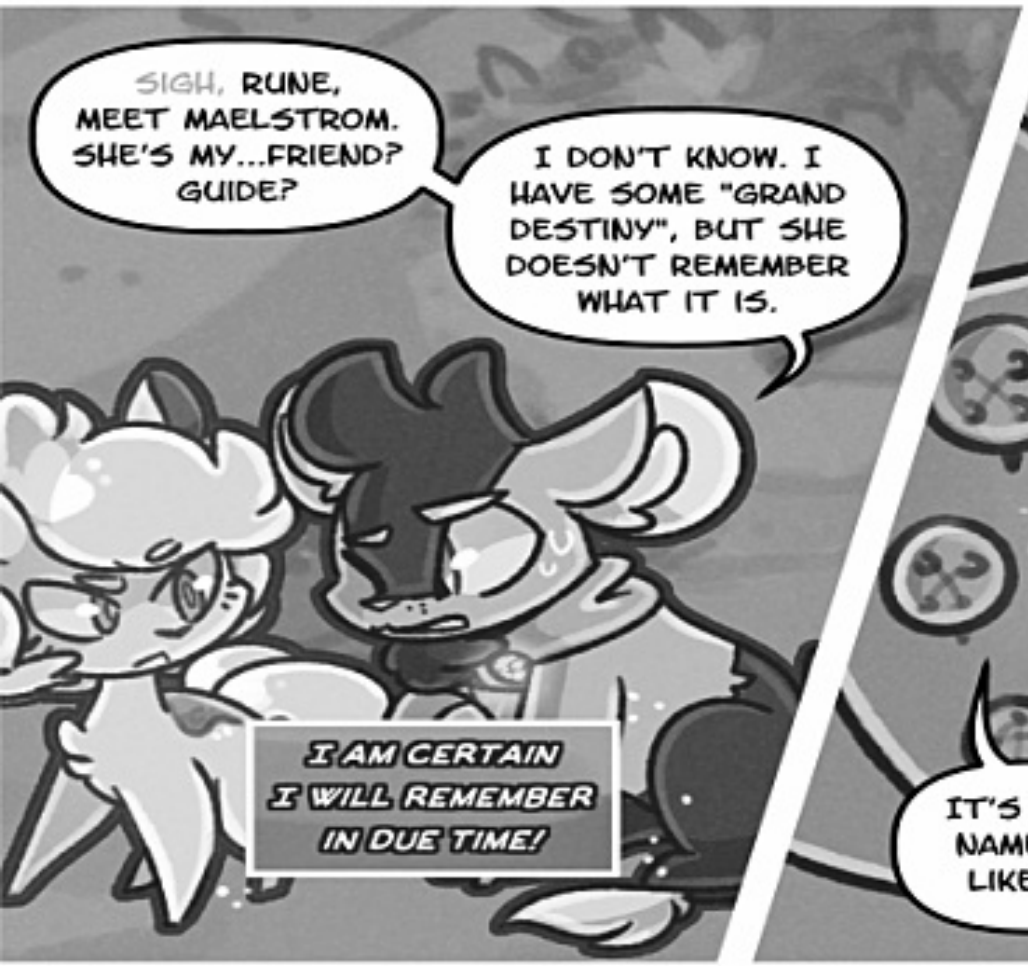
. . .

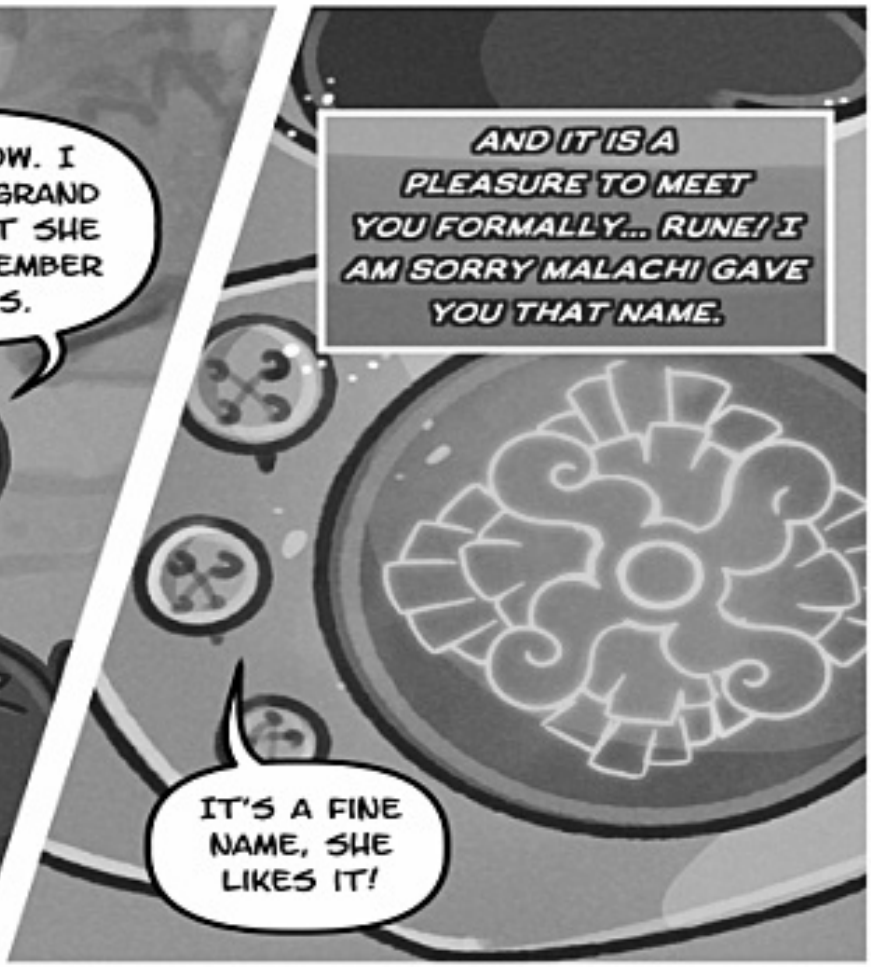
I'M SURE IT'LL COME BACK SOON!
WHEN IT DOES, YOU'LL BE TALKING UP A STORM!

MY CHAMPION! I AM FEELING MUCH BETTER AND WANTED TO SAY HI!
HOW GOES YOUR QUEST TO REPAIR THE BALANCE OF THE WORLD?

WHIP!

?
I CANNOT SEE, MY CHAMPION!


SIGH, RUNE, MEET MAELSTROM. SHE'S MY...FRIEND? GUIDE?
I DON'T KNOW. I HAVE SOME "GRAND DESTINY", BUT SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER WHAT IT IS.
I AM CERTAIN I WILL REMEMBER IN DUE TIME!


AND IT IS A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU FORMALLY... RUNE! I AM SORRY MALACHI GAVE YOU THAT NAME.
IT'S A FINE NAME, SHE LIKES IT!

IT IS A NAME THAT A NERD LOSER WOULD COME UP WITH! AND YOU, MALACHI, ARE A NERD LOSER.
WHAT?! I'M NOT A NERD LOSER! RUNE, YOU'RE WITH ME ON THIS, RIGHT?

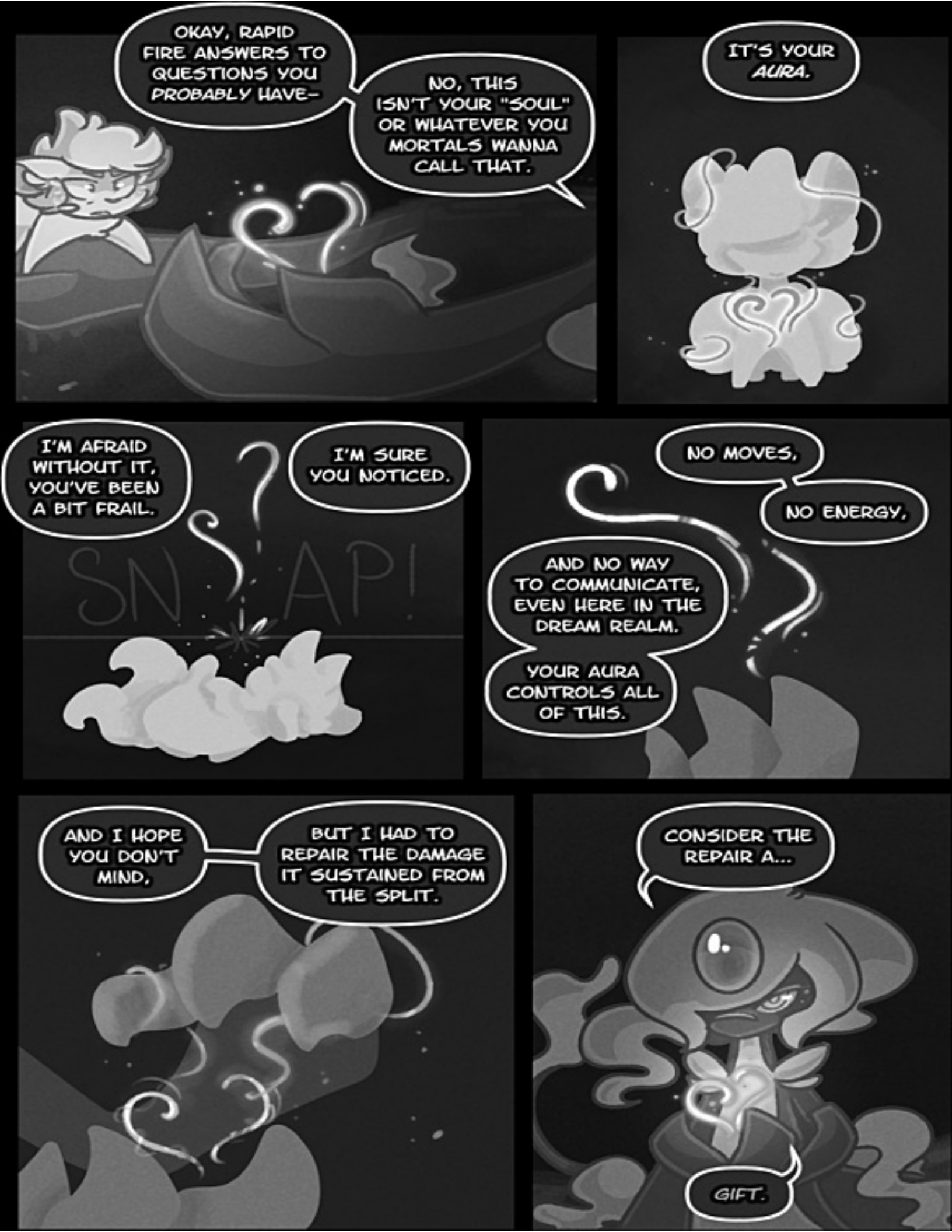
SHRUG
WHAT?!

WELL, I'VE MADE A NERD LOSER OF MYSELF ANYWAY.
WE FLUNKED THE EXAM.
I DON'T KNOW HOW I'M GONNA GET THE RESEARCH MATERIALS I NEED TO GET YOU HOME...
... I AM SORRY TO HEAR THAT.
BUT FEAR NOT! I AM SURE YOU WILL FIND A WAY TO OVERCOME THIS CHALLENGE!
THAT MAKES ONE OF US.
PAT PAT
YEAH! WE GOT THIS!

ZZz
fss—sh
OH! YOU'RE HERE!
WELCOME TO THE DREAM REALM.
TEA?

AW, WHAT'S WITH THE LOOK?
YOU HAVE NO REASON TO BE AFRAID, OL' REQUIEM WON'T BITE!
OTHERWISE, I'D BE A PRETTY LOUSY DREAM GUARDIAN.
I'M JUST CHECKING IN ON YOU AFTER YOUR ACCIDENT.
HOW IS YOUR NEW LIFE? TREATING YOU WELL, I HOPE?
OH, WHAT A CUTE WORRIED EXPRESSION!
YOU JUST GOT WHAT WE PROFESSIONALS CALL, LOST.
VVOOOSH
IT HAPPENS TO THE BEST OF US.
YOU END UP SOMEWHERE YOU SHOULDN'T BE, AND WE HAVE TO FIND YOU A NEW HOME.
POP!
PREFERABLY SOMEWHERE YOU CAN LIVE OUT THE REST OF YOUR SHORT, SHORT LIVES.

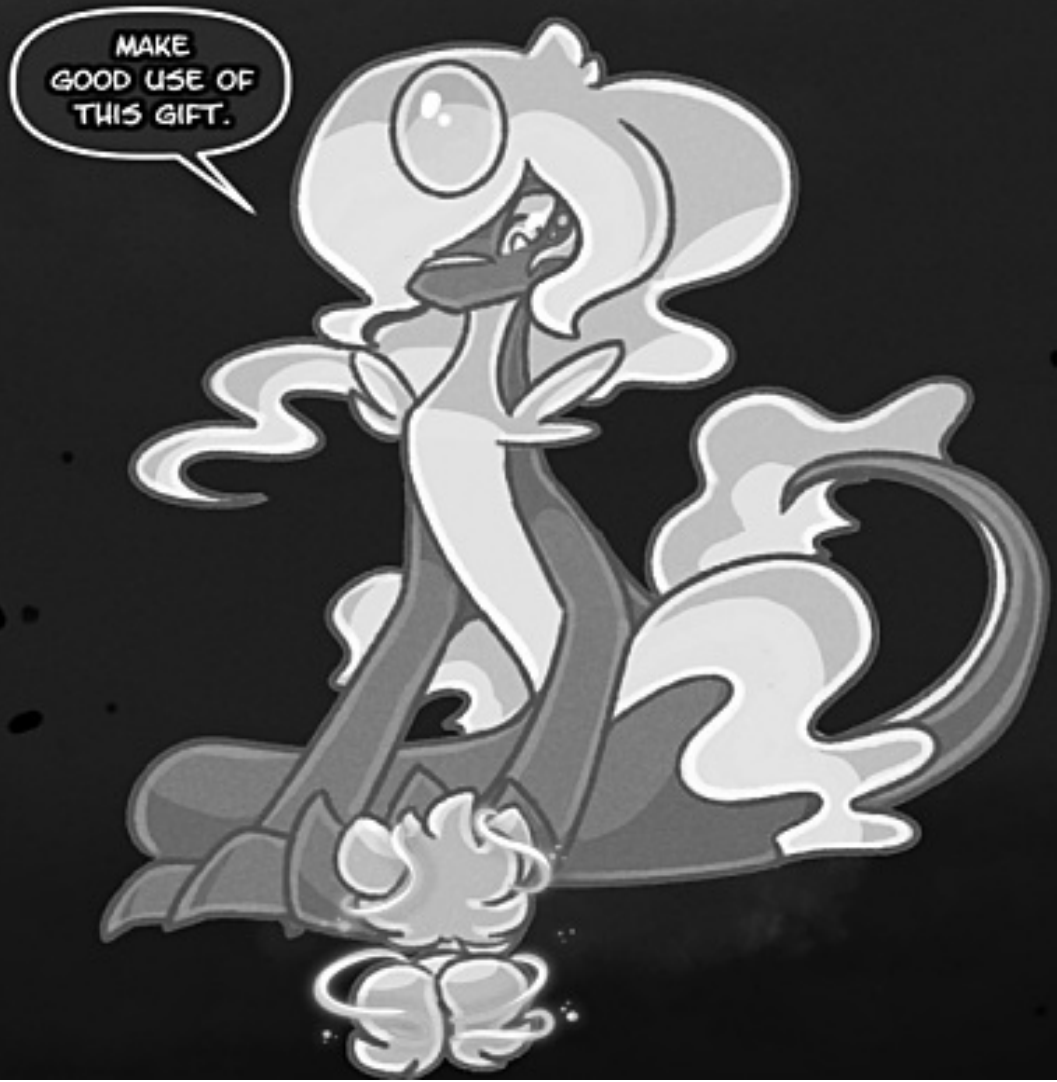
CHOMP!
WHOA THERE, THAT ISN'T FOR THE AMNESIA BIT, IS IT?
THEY'VE NEVER LIKED THE AMNESIA.
LOOK, I'M DOING YOU A FAVOR HERE!
YOU CAN LIVE YOUR NEW LIFE HOWEVER YOU WANT.
THE AMNESIA HELPS YOU MOVE ON.
JUST THINK OF IT AS A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE!
YOU DONE?
LOOK,
I'M ALSO HERE BECAUSE YOU WERE QUITE SLIPPERY IN THE TRANSFER PROCESS.
VVVVV....
AND, WELL,
YOU MISPLACED THIS.


OKAY, RAPID FIRE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS YOU PROBABLY HAVE–
NO, THIS ISN'T YOUR "SOUL" OR WHATEVER YOU MORTALS WANNA CALL THAT.
IT'S YOUR AURA.
I'M AFRAID WITHOUT IT, YOU'VE BEEN A BIT FRAIL.
I'M SURE YOU NOTICED.
SNAP!
NO MOVES,
NO ENERGY,
AND NO WAY TO COMMUNICATE, EVEN HERE IN THE DREAM REALM.
YOUR AURA CONTROLS ALL OF THIS.
AND I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND,
BUT I HAD TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE IT SUSTAINED FROM THE SPLIT.
CONSIDER THE REPAIR A...
GIFT.

NOT A BAD CRASH COURSE, HUH?
I'M SURE THAT YOU STILL HAVE A LOT OF QUESTIONS,
BUT I'M NO MIND READER.

I'VE ALREADY STAYED FAR TOO LONG, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A MASSIVE HEADACHE WHEN YOU WAKE UP.
SO WHAT DO YOU SAY?

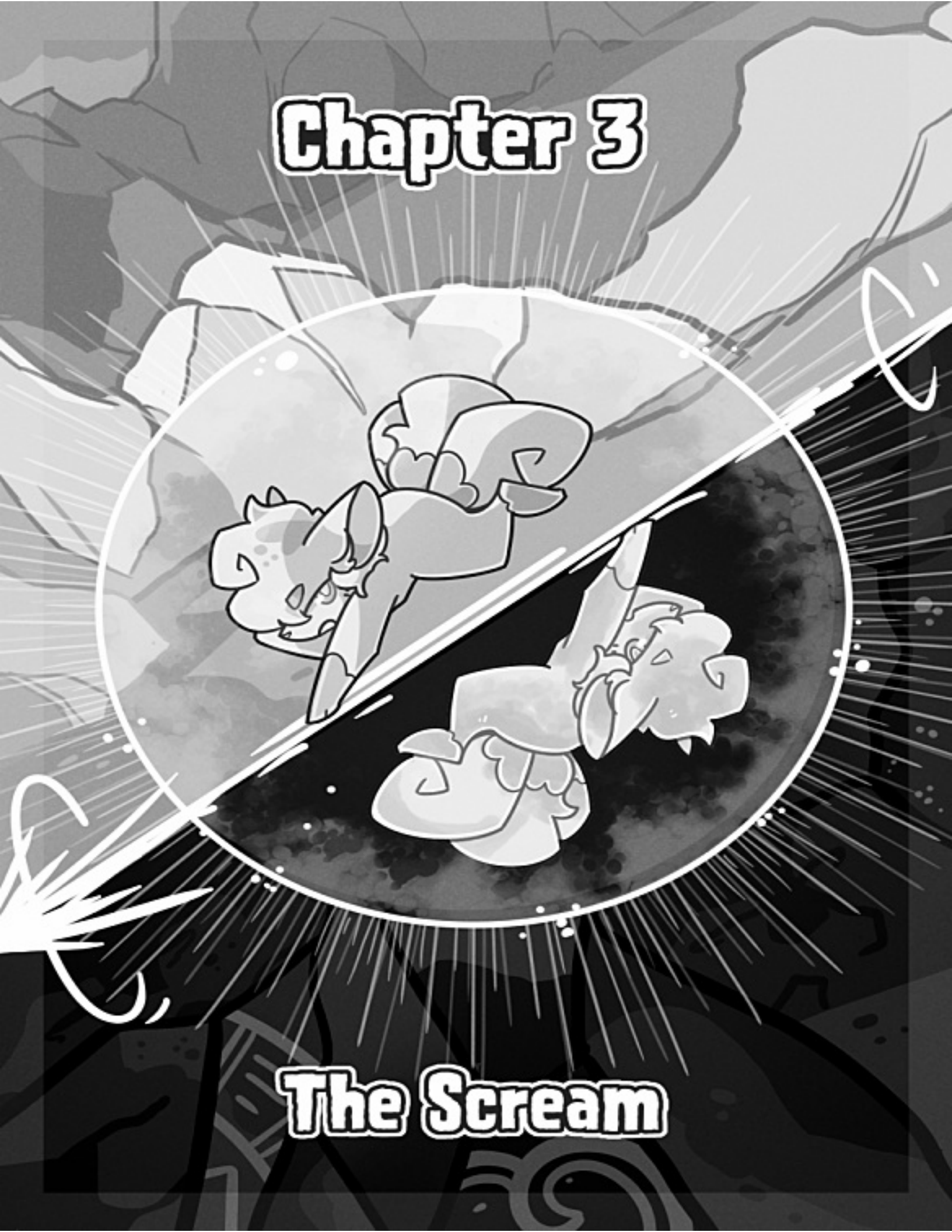
DO WE HAVE A DEAL?


MAKE GOOD USE OF THIS GIFT.

I'LL SEE YOU IN A FEW WEEKS.

CRASH!

END OF CHAPTER 2


Chapter 3
The Scream

NOT EVEN THE KECLEONS ARE HIRING.

WHAT IS THE WORLD COMING TO?!

IF WE DON'T GET A JOB SOON WE'LL RUN OUT OF MONEY AND STARVE.

I KNOW YOU SAID NOT TO ASK, BUT–

THEN DON'T.

–HOW DID YOU GET YOUR AURA BACK?

WHY CAN YOU TALK NOW?

WHY DID YOU WAKE UP SCREAMING?

HOW DID YOU GET MORE TAILS?

WERE YOU ALWAYS SHINY?

SHINY LIKE GREASY?

PFF, NO! YOUR COAT IS WARM COLORED.

MOST KEOKEO VULPIX HAVE BLUE-ISH FUR.

VARIATION IN COAT PIGMENT IS USUALLY REFERRED TO AS "SHINY" DUE TO ITS LUSTROUS, ALMOST SPARKLING SHEEN.

SO YOU'RE SAYING I'M A SPARKLEDOG?

LOOK,
I DON'T KNOW. I HAD A WEIRD DREAM AND WOKE UP WITH A MIGRAINE AND ALL... THIS.
YOU'VE STUCK TO ME LIKE STATIC SINCE THEN.
PURR PURR
YOU ALREADY TOLD ME THAT THOUGH!
AND IT SEEMS THAT DIDN'T STICK.
WELL, THERE'S STILL A LOT I WANNA ASK!
MALACHI, MIGRAINES DON'T CURE AMNESIA.
WELL, HOW ABOUT YOUR REAL NAME?
DIDN'T YOU TRY TELLING ME WHEN WE FIRST MET? WHAT WERE THOSE WEIRD RUNES?
AND WHY SHOULD I TELL YOU?!

A-AH, SORRY.

I SHOULD HAVE REMEMBERED THAT ASKING A FAE POKEMON'S NAME IS RUDE!

WHAT??

I MEAN, YOU'RE ONLY A RUDIMENTARY FAIRY-TYPE,
BUT I'M SURE IT'S STILL TRADITION NOT TO TELL ANYONE YOUR NAME!
IT'S WHY THE GUILDMASTER GOES BY "GUILDMASTER".
NOBODY KNOW HIS REAL NAME.
GOOD ENOUGH, LET'S GO WITH THE "FAIRY-TYPE" EXPLANATION.

HEY SPEAKING OF TYPES,
LET'S SEE WHAT YOU GOT-!

TURN

WAIT, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WHAT I'VE "GOT" IS THE ABILITY TO WALK MY LITTLE LEGS WHEREVER I WANT.

AND RIGHT NOW, I WANT TO WATER MY PLANTS.

I'M GONNA GET A HEAT STROKE OUT HERE.

ALRIGHT, BUT YOU'VE GOTTA SHOW ME AN ICE-TYPE ATTACK!

OOH, OR FAIRY! PLEEEASE, I'VE NEVER SEEN A FAIRY-TYPE MOVE IN ACTION!

THE WORDS COMING OUT OF YOUR MOUTH DON'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

YOU KNOW, ATTACKS!

LIKE THIS.

OH, I SEE!

I DON'T DO THAT.

OF COURSE YOU DO! EVERY POKEMON CAN!

I'M AFRAID YOU'VE GOT A BIT OF A DUD ON THIS ONE, BUD.

BESIDES, I'M NOT A CIRCUS ACT. I DON'T OWE YOU ANY TRICKS.

IT'S NOT ABOUT TRICKS, IT'S FOR KNOWING HOW TO BATTLE!

BATTLING? DO I NEED TO PUT THAT ON MY RESUME?

YOU GOTTA THINK BIGGER, MOVES ARE GOOD FOR SO MUCH MORE THAN FIGHTING!

IMAGINE, FIRE USED ON RAILWAYS, GRASS ON FARMS, EVEN POISON FOR APOTHECARY WORK! THERE'S TONS OF OPTIONS!

WHAT IF YOU AREN'T... A "MOVES" TYPE OF PERSON?

WELL, THAT'S WHAT GENERIC JOBS LIKE MERCHANTS ARE FOR!

BUT UH, THOSE ARE POPULAR WITH OTHER TEENS.

NOT A LOT OF POSITIONS ARE LEFT...

THE "OTHER TEENS"?? IMPLYING YOU'RE NOT JUST A BABY BOY.

HE MOST CERTAINLY IS!

NOOO LOOK AT ME! I'M BIG AND STRONG.

6 TAILS = ADULT

3 TAILS = YOUNG TEENS? MIGHT GROW MORE??

AS IF YOU HAVE ANY ROOM TO TALK, YOU LOOK YOUNGER THAN ME!

AND MAELSTROM YOU... YOU'RE A ROCK.

EVEN WITH AMNESIA, I *KNOW* I'VE GOT A FEW YEARS ON YOU.

I CAN FEEL IT IN MY BONES. MY AGED, BRITTLE BONES.

I'M SORRY FOR EAVESDROPPING,

BUT DID YOU SAY YOU WERE LOOKING FOR WORK?

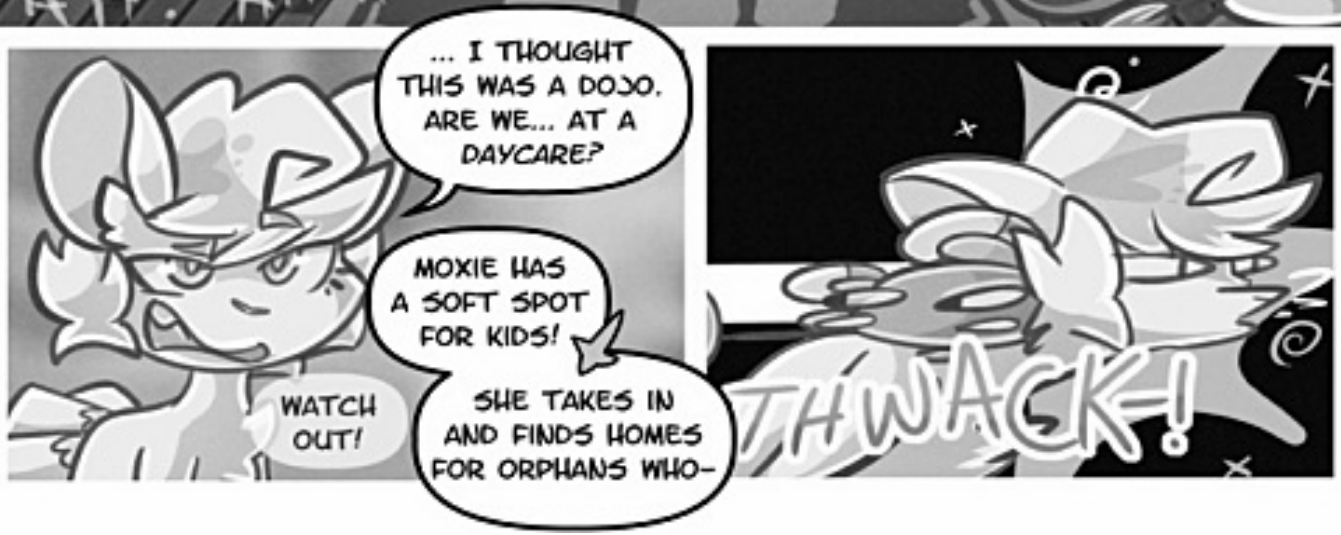
OH- YEAH! DO YOU HAVE ANY POSITIONS?
OH, ME? NO, I'M AFRAID NOT.
BUT MY WIFE IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR EXTRA HANDS AT THE LOCAL DOJO!
IT'S JUST HER AND OUR TWO KIDS RUNNING IT RIGHT NOW, AND OUR SON HAS BEEN... LESS HELPFUL, LATELY.
THE UH... DOJO?
I CAN'T SAY I'VE... BEEN THERE.
I PROMISE IT'S NOT AS ROUGH AS IT SOUNDS.
TELL HER I SENT YOU OVER! YOU SEEM LIKE A GOOD KID.
WE UH, APPRECIATE IT.

Marowak Dojo

LOTS OF POKEMON COME HERE TO HONE THEIR SKILLS.
I'VE NEVER BEEN HERE PERSONALLY BECAUSE OF, UH, REASONS.
THE "REASONS" IS MY CHAMPION FEARS PHYSICAL CONTACT!
HMM... THAT CHECKS OUT.
WHAT?! NO WAY! I-

I LOVE GETTING HIT.

LOOK AT HOW HIGH MY JUMP GOES!
BETCHA CAN'T CATCH ME!
hmm...
AAH! HA HA

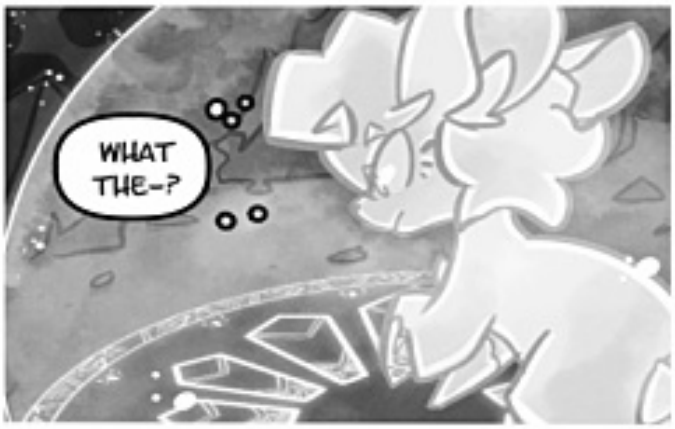

... I THOUGHT THIS WAS A DOJO. ARE WE... AT A DAYCARE?
MOXIE HAS A SOFT SPOT FOR KIDS!
SHE TAKES IN AND FINDS HOMES FOR ORPHANS WHO-
WATCH OUT!
THWACK-!

PAX! WHAT DID YOU DO?!
GHH...

TOO DIZZY...
RUNE? RUNE! ARE YOU OKAY?!

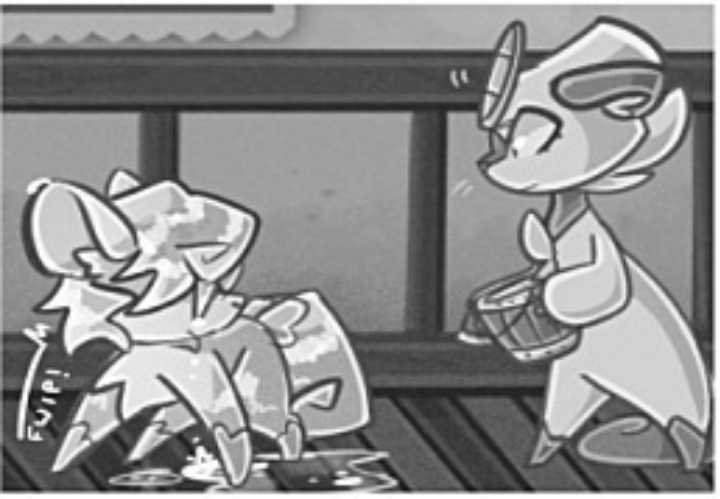
I CAN'T...

HUH?


WHAT THE-?

AAAA
H-HUH?! WHO NEED

SPLASH!


FLIP!

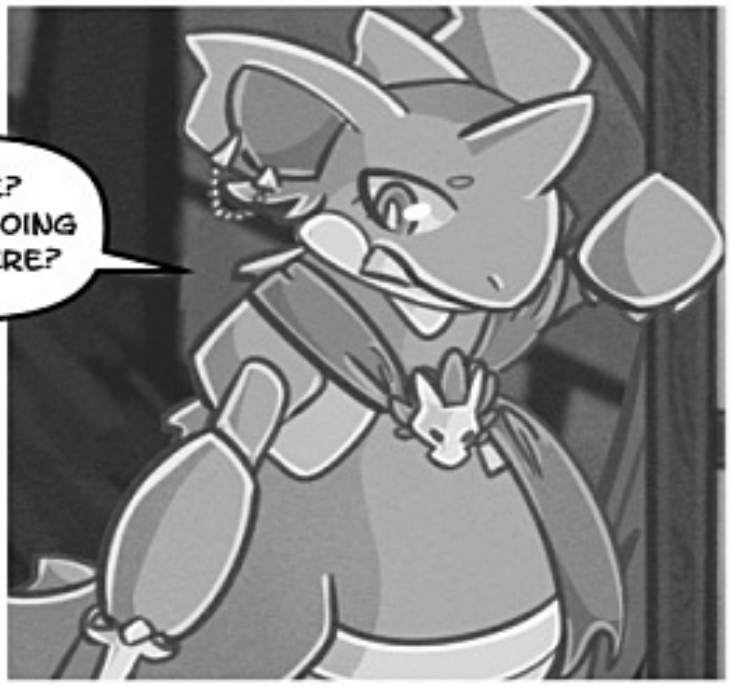
DID YOU JUST P WATE
AAAH! I'M SO SORRY, YOU WERE JUST PASSED OUT AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO AND-
UM-

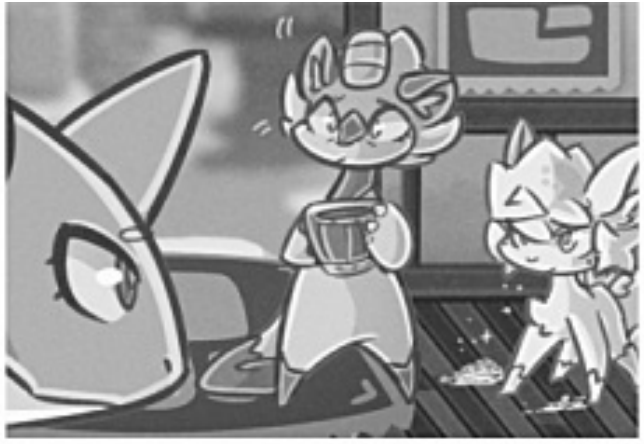
I-IS THAT WHY YOU SCREAMED?
I'M FINE, I THINK.

SCREAM? WE WERE STARTLED, BUT NOBODY SCREAMED.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALRIGHT?

MAYBE WE HAVE BEEN WALKING IN THE SUN TOO MUCH TODAY...
GHH... YEAH, THAT MUST BE IT.

WHACK!


DIELLE? WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE?



SORRY ABOUT DIELLE. SHE'S AS JUMPY AS A CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF.

NOW, WHAT KIND OF TRAINING ARE YOU AFTER TODAY?

WH- TRAINING? UH, WE ACTUALLY CAME HERE T FIND A JOB

WELL, I SHOULD WARN YOU THE PHYSICAL RESISTANCE TRAINING ROOM IS *TAKEN* TODAY.

MY SON IS HOLING HIMSELF UP IN THERE, SOMETHING ABOUT A *TOURNAMENT* IN THE NEXT TOWN OVER.

I'M ALL FOR SUPPORTING HIS INTERESTS,

BUT A NIDORINA HIS AGE SHOULD GET A JOB!

SPEAKIN OF JOBS-

MAYBE SOME PLACE WHERE IF HE PUTS IN MONTHS OF EFFORT, HE CAN GET MORE THAN JUST A WEEK OF PAY.

I CAN'T GET A WORD IN...

IMAGINE THAT.

YET NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I OFFER HIM WORK,

HE *ALWAYS* REFUSES!

AT LEAST WE CAN COUNT ON DIELLE AROUND HERE.

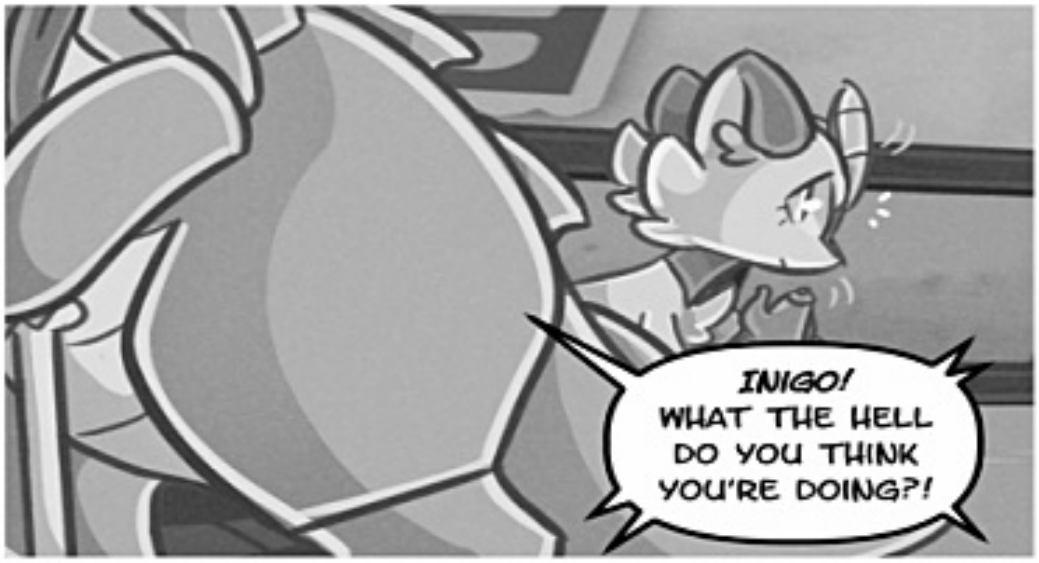
STEP...

STEP.

CRASH!

MOOOM, I THINK I BROKE ONE OF THE SANDBAGS AGAIN!

OH, FOR GOD'S SAKE...


INIGO! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

HEY!
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT.
TINK!

THE KIDS CAN GET REALLY ROWDY,
AND I THOUGHT "MAYBE SHE DIED" AND I GOT THE WATER–
I'M FINE.

OH! YEAH.
I'M DIELLE, BY THE WAY.

I KNOW.
THE UM. LADY TOLD US. I'M RUNE.
AND I'M MAL
I SAID I WAS SORRY!

LISTEN HERE YOUNG MAN, THAT'S THE *LAST* SANDBAG YOU GET TO BREAK.

YOU ARE GOING TO PAY ME BACK.

BUT *MOM!*

THE NEXT TOURNAMENT ISN'T FOR ANOTHER *MONTH*, WHERE AM I GONNA GET THAT MONEY?

PERHAPS THIS IS THE UNIVERSE'S WAY OF SENDING YOU OUT IN THE WORLD!

IF YOU AREN'T GOING TO CARRY ON YOUR GRANDFATHER'S LEGACY, YOU NEED TO SUPPORT YOURSELF SOME OTHER WAY.

YOU'RE GROWING OUT OF ME AND MAMA'S POUCHES! LOOK AT *MALACHI*, HE–

SORRY HUN, WHERE'D YOU SAY YOU WORKED?

OH! WE ACTUALLY L FOR A JOB RIGHT NOW, SO IF YOU–

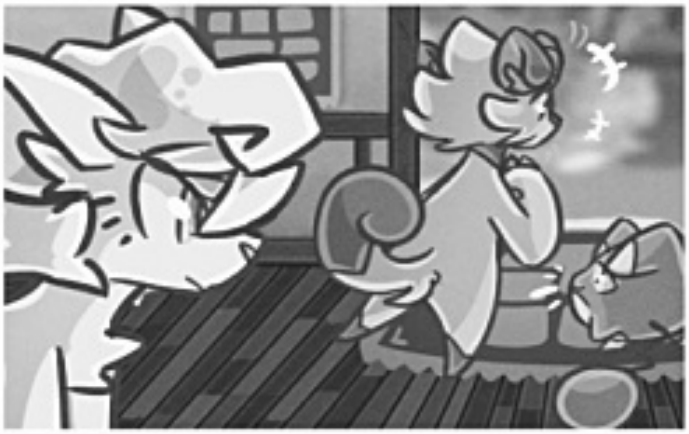
HE'S *LOOKING* FOR A JOB!

ONLY WALTZING INTO TOWN LAST YEAR TO FIND A LIVING FOR HIMSELF, AND HE'S *YOUNGER* THAN YOU!

I JUST WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU, PUMPKABOO.

I GOT AN IDEA! HOW ABOUT YOU JOB HUNT WITH THESE TWO FOR A DAY? HOW'S THAT SOUND?

NOT GREAT.



WHACK!

WELL THAT'S THAT, THEN!

BEST OF LUCK JOB SEARCHING, YOU LOT!

OW...

YOU MISSED YOUR CHANCE TO SPEAK UP BACK THERE, BUD.

AS IF! I COULDN'T GET A WORD IN!

BUT ISN'T YOUR SPECIALTY "GETTING WORDS IN"?

SEEMS TO ME HIS SPECIALTY IS BEING A DOOR MAT.

BUMP!

AH, MY BAD.

H-HUH...?

DIZZY AGAIN...?

... SPIKY ROCK PLACE AGAIN?
SO I DIDN'T JUST IMAGINE IT... THEN WHAT-?
I CAN'T LEAVE THIS BARRIER...
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?
HUH??
DIDN'T I JUST BUMP INTO THIS GUY? WHAT'S HE-
I WANNA GO HOME!
I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND.
WHAT IS THIS?!
WHY IS THE KID FROM THE DOJO HERE?
I SAID GET INSIDE THAT CHAMBER RIGHT NOW,
OR I'LL MAKE YOU FORGET ALL ABOUT HOME.

DON'T LAY A HAND ON HIM!
S_S S. S...
- AND SHE JUST ZONKED OUT!
YOU WOKE HER UP LAST TIME SO I THOUGHT...
WHAT?? ALL I DID WAS POUR WATER ON HER!
H-HE'S IN TROUBLE.
PAT OR WHATEVER- WE HAVE TO GO NOW.
RUNE!
WAIT- THE AZURILL KID THAT RAN OFF?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? IS THE HEAT GETTING TO YOU?
PAX? WHERE? WHAT'S WRONG?
GAH- WE DON'T HAVE TIME!
I GOTTA FIND A MOUNTAIN WITH SHARP ROCKS!

Mt. Bristle 1F Lv. 9

WHAT SHOULD WE BE LOOKING OUT FOR?
A DROZEE, PART MUSHARNA.

WHAT'S UP WITH THIS, UH, DROWZEE?
WHAT DOES HE HAVE TO DO WITH THE AZURILL?

I... SAW HIM ON A WANTED POSTER?
I JUST GOT A BAD VIBE.

POSTER? BUT ONLY THE GUILD HAS THOSE, AND WE DIDN'T...

I'M GLAD TO GET OUT OF JOB SEARCHING, BUT ISN'T THIS TIME SENSITIVE?
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO GO.
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO, ASK ONE OF THE LOCALS?

EXCUSE ME MISS, HAVE YOU SEEN A DROWZEE-?
EXPLORATION TEAM! THE JIG IS UP!
BUT... WE'RE NOT...
NOT ON MY WATCH!
STARLY used WING ATTACK!
CLAP!
MEOWTH used THUNDERBOLT!
...But it missed!
WATCH IT, DIELLE!
YOU COULD HURT SOMEONE!
IT WORKS FINE!
LIKE HELL IT DOES!
YOU AREN'T AN ELECTRIC-TYPE, YOU DON'T HAVE PRECISE CONTROL!

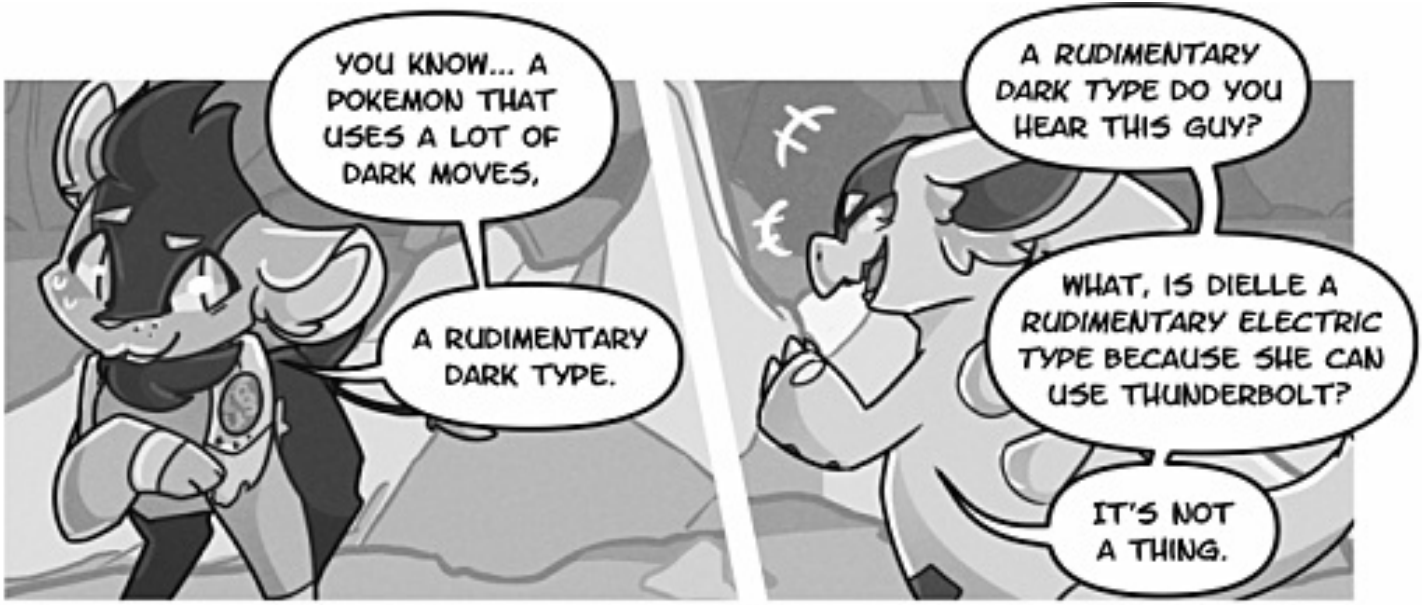
WHACK!
GOTCHA.
ICE??
HOW DO I-
VULPIX!
BLAST 'IM WITH ICE!
RUNE!
THE ONE TIME I NEED TO SPARK AND I CAN'T-!
MALACHI, OVER HERE!
GAH!
RRRIP!
DODGE

LIGHTNING ROD! THINK FAST!
CRRCK
LIGHTNING ROD IS A PASSIVE ABILITY THAT CAN REDIRECT ELECTRIC MOVES...
BUT WITH THE RIGHT FOCUS...
ANY ELEMENTAL POKEMON CAN REDIRECT ATTACKS THAT MATCH THEIR TYPE!
YES!
guhh...
I'M AFRAID YOU TWO DIDN'T ANSWER OUR QUESTION-
WHERE'S DROWZEE?
WHAM!

LOOK, WE DON'T REALLY WORK WITH HIM,
WE JUST WANTED SOME OF THE TREASURE HE'S AFTER!
TREASURE?
YEAH, A GOLDEN CHAMBER SPAWNED SOMEWHERE NEARBY.
HE SAID THAT IF WE KEPT FOLKS OUT, HE'D GIVE US A SMALL CUT!
THAT'S ALL IT IS!
THAT'S GREAT AND ALL, BUT IT DOESN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION.
WHERE IS HE?
THE PEAK! HE'S AT THE PEAK!
IT WAS A GAMBLE, BUT HE REALLY IS HERE!
I KNEW IT!
WELL, I GUESS WE'RE HEADED TO THE PEAK.

HEY INIGO, WHERE'D YOU LEARN TO BATTLE LIKE THAT?
DOJO. DUH.
WE'RE POKEMON WE'RE MADE TO FIGHT.
IF YOU CAN'T DO THAT, YOU'RE NOT ANYTHING SPECIAL.
YOU.
WHY'D YOU CHOKE UP WHEN I ASKED YOU TO USE AN ELEMENTAL ATTACK?
I DON'T NEED THEM.
WHAT, YOU PLAN ON TACKLING ANYONE THAT LOOKS AT YOU FUNNY?
BY LIMITING YOURSELF, YOU'RE ENDANGERING MORE THAN YOURSELF.
ELEMENTAL MOVES ARE THE STRONGEST TOOLS AT YOUR DISPOSAL.
WITHOUT THEM, YOU'RE DEAD WEIGHT.

SO WHAT INIGO, THEY AREN'T FIGHTING MATCHES LIKE YOU.
NOBODY CARES ABOUT IT THAT MUCH.
EEP!
T-THANKS!
I WAS REAL WORRIED FOR A SECOND!!
IT'S NOTHING.
IF WE'RE GONNA DEAL WITH DROWZEE, WE NEED SOME MOVES TO USE AGAINST HIM.
I DOUBT ANY OF YOU ARE DARK TYPES, SO-
WELL I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT AS A MEMBER OF THE LUXRAY LINE,
I'M A RUDIMENTARY DARK TYPE!
A WHAT.


YOU KNOW... A POKEMON THAT USES A LOT OF DARK MOVES,
A RUDIMENTARY DARK TYPE.
A RUDIMENTARY DARK TYPE DO YOU HEAR THIS GUY?
WHAT, IS DIELLE A RUDIMENTARY ELECTRIC TYPE BECAUSE SHE CAN USE THUNDERBOLT?
IT'S NOT A THING.

YEAH IT IS!
OH YEAH, THEN WHY DON'T YOU HAVE THE SAME RESISTANCES?

H-H-HELP!

WELL SHINX, YOU BETTER HOPE YOU'RE A DARK TYPE AFTER ALL.

LET'S GO KICK SOME AACK!
LET ME THROUGH, HE'S IN TROUBLE!
WE NEED A PLAN FIRST! YOU SHOULDN'T GET YOURSELF HURT.
SKIIID
HERE'S THE STRATEGY–
SHINX CAN USE HIS... DARK TYPE MOVES,
AND DIELLE CAN TRY STUNNING DROWZEE WITH THUNDERBOLT.
I'M WEAK TO PSYCHICS, SO I'LL ATTACK FROM THE PERIMETER.
AND ME?
YOU CAN'T USE ELEMENTAL ATTACKS. STAY OUT OF IT.
AS FOR YOU TWO, LET'S GET CLOSE, LOOK FOR AN OPENING.

I CAN'T JUST SIT HERE...
AND DO NOTHING!
I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND.
I SAID GET IN THAT CHAMBER RIGHT NOW,
OR I'LL MAKE YOU FORGET ALL ABOUT HOME.
E-EH?
AAAA
BAD MOVE, VULPIX.

DIS
ABLE
GH-!
CONFUS
BITE!
GAH!
DAMN IT!

WHACK!
DOUBLE
KICK!

TOK!

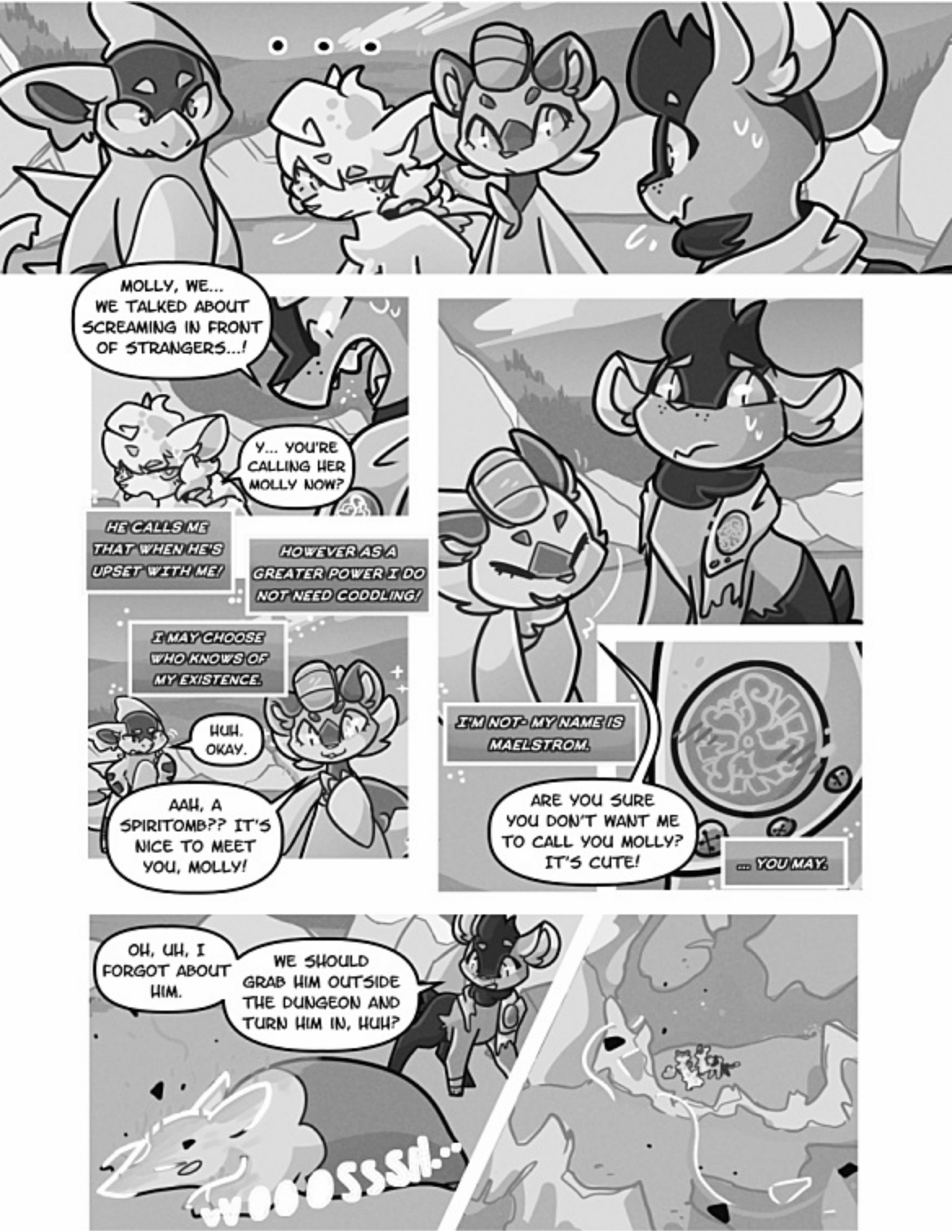
WHOOSH!
GAH!

DIELLE, SHINX, LIGHTNING ROD!
GOT IT!

BZZZT-
Malachi was hurt in his confusion!
EEP! MALACHI, ARE YOU OKAY?!
DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOT... VERY EFFECTIVE...
EUGH, THAT PACKED A PUNCH...
I HARDLY HAVE TO DO ANYTHING, SEEMS LIKE YOU'LL ALL TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES.
STEP
HEY! WAIT UP!
WE'RE NOT DONE YET!

ONLY HAVE THE ONE TRICK, VULPIX?
Vvv...
Rune used
FEINT ATTACK!
THUMP!
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S MORE OF A DARK-TYPE THAN YOU.

PAX!
D-DIELLE!
I FELL ASLEEP E-EVEN THOUGH I WASN'T TIRED, AND THEN I WOKE UP HERE, AND-
THERE, THERE, WE'LL GET YOU ALL PATCHED UP AT HOME, OKAY?
T-THANK YOU MISS...
I'M SORRY I RAN INTO YOU EARLIER...
UM. IT'S FINE.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE OKAY.
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR WIN, MY CHAMPION! LET US REJOICE!


. . .
MOLLY, WE... WE TALKED ABOUT SCREAMING IN FRONT OF STRANGERS...!
Y... YOU'RE CALLING HER MOLLY NOW?
HE CALLS ME THAT WHEN HE'S UPSET WITH ME!
HOWEVER AS A GREATER POWER I DO NOT NEED CODDLING!
I MAY CHOOSE WHO KNOWS OF MY EXISTENCE.
HUH. OKAY.
AAH, A SPIRITOMB?? IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, MOLLY!
I'M NOT- MY NAME IS MAELSTROM.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO CALL YOU MOLLY? IT'S CUTE!
... YOU MAY.
OH, UH, I FORGOT ABOUT HIM.
WE SHOULD GRAB HIM OUTSIDE THE DUNGEON AND TURN HIM IN, HUH?
WOOOOSSSH...

TUG TUG
!!!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, YOU BIG DUMMY?! WE JUST HEARD ABOUT THE OUTLAW, AND THE REHAB CENTER, AND AND THE
MA, YOU'RE SQUISHING ME—!

OH, I'M SO GLAD YOU ALL ARE SAFE,
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE IF...
OH, WE DON'T HAVE A LOT, BUT I'M SURE WE COULD GIVE YOU SOME KIND OF REWARD?
OH, IT'S FINE! WE'RE JUST GLAD PAX IS SAFE AND SOUND.
IT'S GOOD LUCK RUNE SAW THAT WANTED POSTER, HUH?
I MUST HAVE MISSED IT!
HIYA, FRIENDS!
CAN I HANG OUT AT YOUR HOUSE FOR A LIL BIT? I'M AVOIDING KEATON!

SO, UH... WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
OH, A COUPLE OF THINGS!
FIRST THING'S FIRST, THE DONATION THE GUILD JUST RECEIVED!
I LIKE TO THANK DONORS IN PERSON FOR THEIR HARD WORK.
OH, IT'S NOTHING!
NOT LIKE MALACHI WOULD LET US KEEP IT ANYWAY.

I LIKE THAT!
DOING THINGS TO BE GOOD, NOT FOR A
PBTHBTH-!
S-SORRY FRIEND! DO YOU HAVE SUGAR?
N-NO... I CAN'T TASTE SWEET THINGS SO I DON'T KEEP IT AROUND...
OH! HORRIBLE, OH NO!
HOW CAN YOU STAND IT?
CAN'T MISS WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE...
SCRUB SCRUB
OH! I ALSO CAME TO CHECK IN ON YOUR FRIEND.
SHE LOOKS...
DIFFERENT!
IS IT THE TEA STAINS?

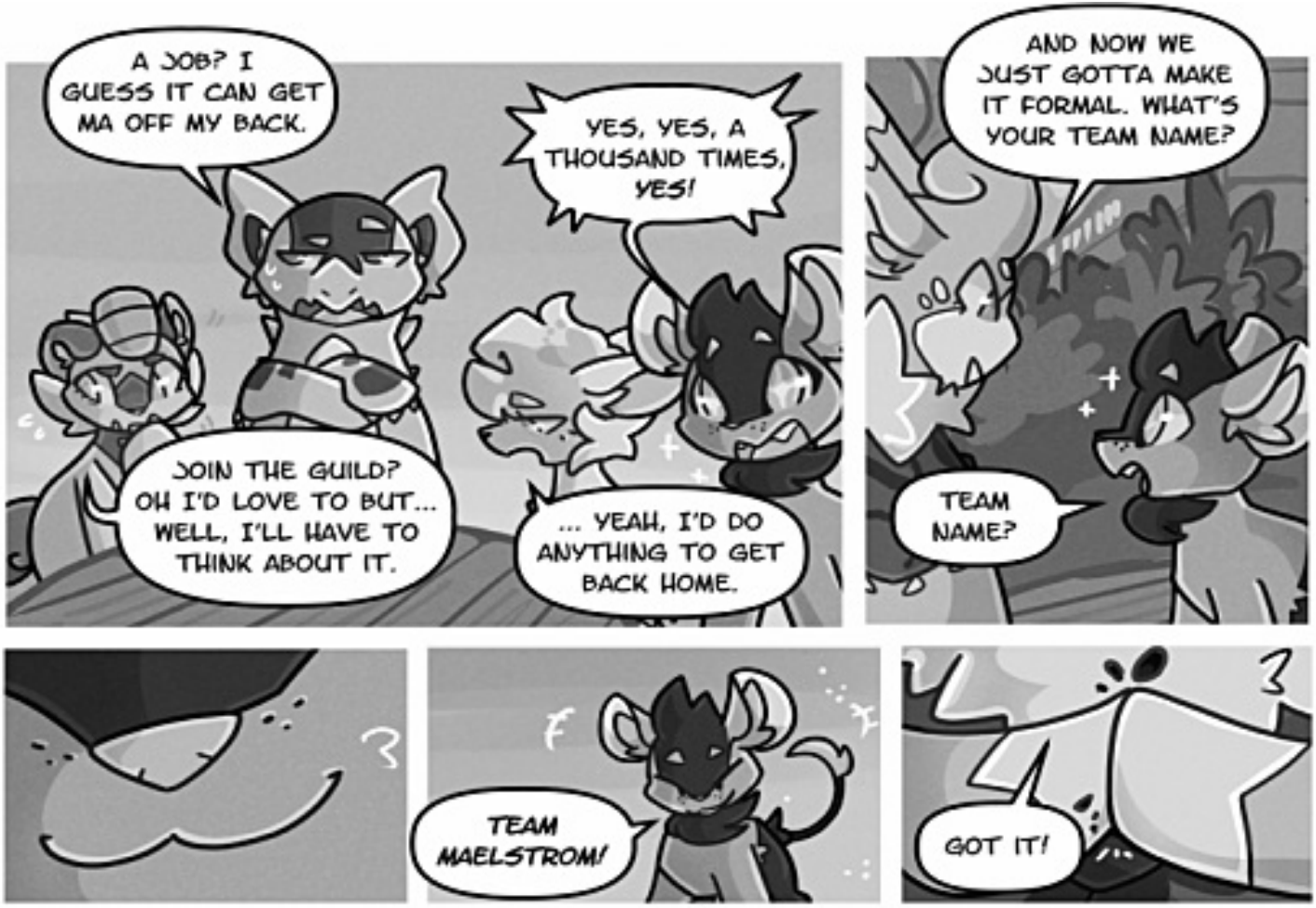
OH YOU CAN TALK AGAIN, GOOD! AND YOUR-

YOUR FUR IS SO PRETTY AND PINK, LIKE MINE!
UM. YEAH.

HAVE YOU... HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT TREESHROUD?
AH... WELL YES, WE GOT NEWS.

I'M SORRY BUT... IT'S NOT HAPPY NEWS.
TIME HAS FROZEN THERE. NOT EVERYONE MADE IT OUT IN TIME.
THE KEOKEO VULPIX TRIBE WASN'T FOUND.

AND YOU COULD HELP TOO, IF YOU WANT.


A JOB? I GUESS IT CAN GET MA OFF MY BACK.
YES, YES, A THOUSAND TIMES, YES!
JOIN THE GUILD? OH I'D LOVE TO BUT... WELL, I'LL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT.
... YEAH, I'D DO ANYTHING TO GET BACK HOME.
AND NOW WE JUST GOTTA MAKE IT FORMAL. WHAT'S YOUR TEAM NAME?
TEAM NAME?
TEAM MAELSTROM!
GOT IT!

YOOM—
TAH!

FSSSss...

THERE! THIS BASE HAS BEEN REGISTERED AS YOUR HOME LOCATION.

ONCE WE CALIBRATE YOUR BADGES, YOU CAN TELEPORT HERE ANYTIME!

SSSS...

YOU GUYS FAILED THE EXPLORATION TEAM TEST? NOT EVEN APPRENTICES ?

YOU REALLY ARE HOPELESS WITHOUT HELP.

I FEEL LIKE SOMEHOW, I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT AREA TO WORK ON FIRST.

YOU, COME TO THE DOJO TOMORROW WHEN YOU HAVE TIME. SOMEONE HAS TO SHOW YOU THE BASICS.

FINE. NO PROBLEM.

I'LL GET YOU WITH MY STUNNING DARK-TYPE MOVES.

OR SHOULD I SAY RUDIMENTARY DARK-TYPE MOVES?

IT'S A DEAL. THAT'S WHAT MY RUDIMENTARY FIGHTING-TYPE MOVES ARE FOR!

C'MON, YOU GUYS!

CLICK!

NO KEATON... LOOKS LIKE I'M OFF THE HOOK, HEHE!

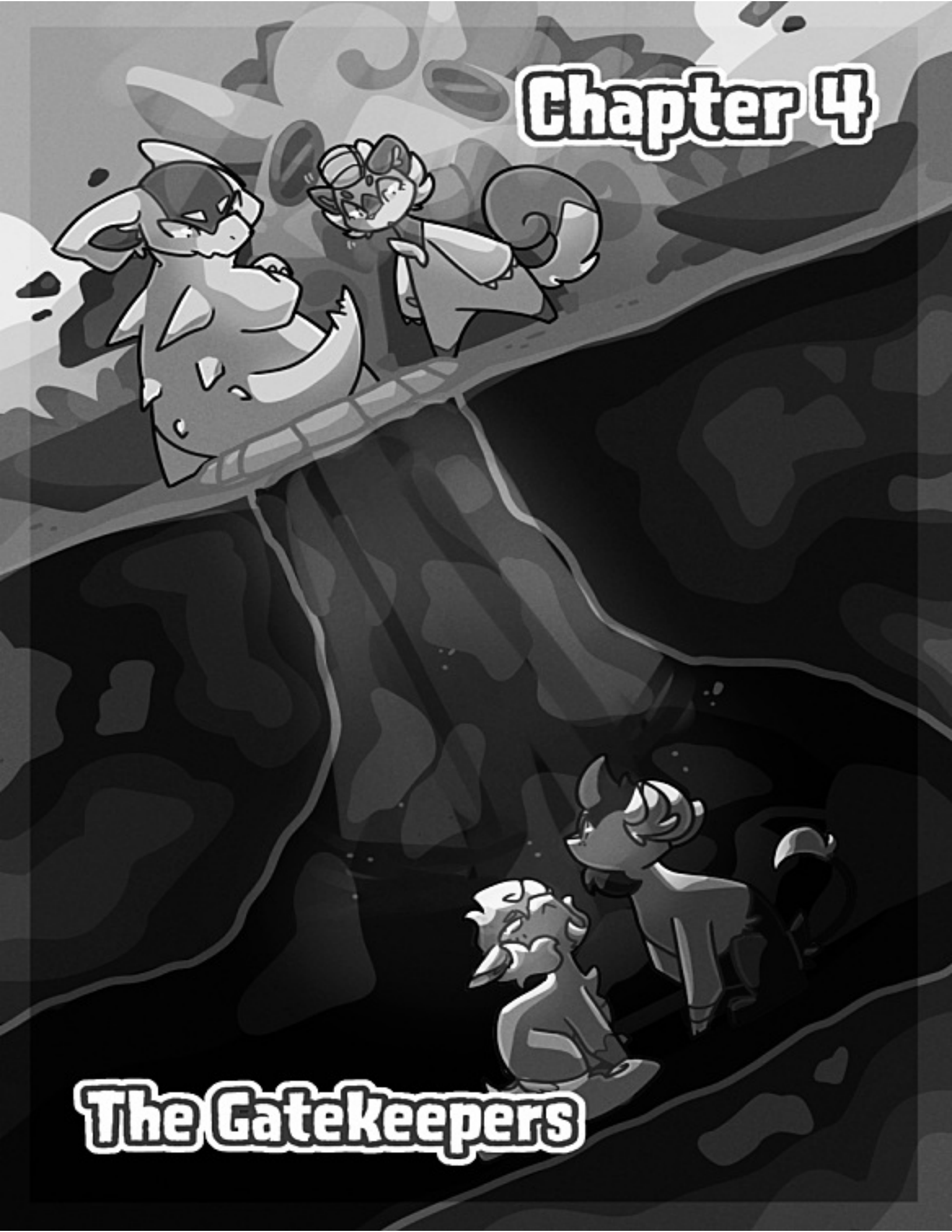
CREAK

YOU REALLY COULDN'T HELP IT, COULD YOU?

HOW COULD I? WE COULDN'T HAVE TIMED IT BETTER WITHOUT STAGING MISSIONS FOR THEM!
AND THIS ISN'T STAGING?
I GAVE YOU YOUR LOOPHOLE, BUT I STILL FAILED THEM FOR A REASON.

THEY NEED MORE EXPERIENCE OR THEY'RE GOING TO GET THEMSELVES KILLED.
IF NOT FOR THE DOJO TRAINEES, WE'D BE SENDING A TEAM TO SCRAPE THEM OFF THE FLOOR.
KEATON, YOU WORRY TOO MUCH!
BESIDES, ISN'T IT BETTER THEY TRAIN WITH THE GUILD'S PROTECTION?
NOT TO MENTION THEY HAVE A CUTE TEAM NAME– TEAM MAELSTROM! DOESN'T IT HAVE A NICE RING TO IT?
HAH.
AND IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT BLATANT FAVORITISM?
WEEELL... I'D BE A BIG FAT LIAR IF I SAID I WASN'T PICKING FAVORITES.
AFTER ALL...

WHEN WILL I GET ANOTHER CHANCE TO MEET A HUMAN?
END OF CHAPTER 3


Chapter 4
The Gatekeepers

ANY LUCK?
WHAT CAN WE DO?
WE CAN WALK THROUGH FREELY, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THOSE CAUGHT BY THE INITIAL BLAST HAVE REMAINED FROZEN.
LIKE STATUES.
CAN WE GET THEM TO BUDGE? MAYBE IF WE CAN TAKE THEM OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE...
TRYING TO MOVE ANYTHING CAUGHT IN THE BLAST IS A LOST CAUSE. WE SHOULD FOCUS OUR EFFORTS ON FINDING AN ARTIFACT THAT CAN...
... THEY'RE STILL AT IT, HUH?
TO THINK THIS LITTLE ARTIFACT COULD CAUSE SO MUCH PAIN.

THEY SHOULD KNOW BETTER.
ONCE SOMEONE IS TRAPPED IN TIME, THERE'S NO ESCAPE.
YOU KNEW THAT BETTER THAN ANYONE,
DIDN'T YOU, NAOMI?

THIS IS-!
NOT WHAT I HAD IN MIND FOR A FIRST JOB.
PAH! SENTRY WORK ISN'T ANYBODY'S IDEA OF A "FIRST JOB".
IMAGINE IT BEING YOUR JOB ALL THE TIME!

I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT GUILD WORK INVOLVED MORE IMPORTANT THINGS THAN GUARD DUTY WITH THE VETTING PROCESS.

OH C'MON, ALL GUILD WORK IS IMPORTANT!

THE FOOTPRINT SENTRY IS AN UNINTRUSIVE WAY OF GETTING DEMOGRAPHIC INFO OF VISITORS–

WHICH HELPS US DECIDE WHAT AREAS NEED OUR HELP SO WE CAN ALLOT TEAMS AND RESOURCES TO HELP THEM.

AND HERE WE ARE!

YOU REMEMBER THE DRILL?

IDENTIFY THE FOOTPRINTS ABOVE, AND WRITE THEM DOWN IN THE TALLY?

YOU GOT IT!

DON'T FORGET TO SAY "POKEMON DETECTED". IT'S VERY IMPORTANT.

HOLLER IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG.

OH, SOMEONE'S HERE ALREADY!

ER– POKEMON DETECTED!

MARK THIS ONE DOWN AS ZOROARK.
UH-
DO YOU NEED HELP SPELLING IT? IT'S ʌoʞ-
I... DON'T KNOW HOW TO WRITE.

WHAT? BUT DIDN'T YOU WRITE YOUR NAME IN THE BEACH CAVE?
YOU SAID YOURSELF THAT WASN'T COMMON.
FAIR POINT. THOUGH SPEAKING OF YOUR NAME-
NO.

TMP
TMP
SOMEONE ELSE IS HERE ALREADY?!
POKEMON DETECTED.

UH, HERE I'LL JUST... DO BOTH.

THE FOOTPRINT LOOKS LIKE... PSYDUCK?
WAIT, IS THAT YOHANN?!

OH, GREETINGS MAC.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ALL THE WAY DOWN THERE?

OH Y'KNOW, GUILD WORK. I FINALLY GOT ENDORSED IN A TEAM!
HUH. I REALLY DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD PULL IT OFF.
CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER. STAY PUT. I'LL BE DOWN IN A MOMENT.
THMP
THMP
THMP-
OH YOU DON'T-
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE ALLOWED-

WHAM!

GAAAH-!!
I KNEW IT!

DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG I HAD TO SPIN THOSE PECHA FIBERS TO GET THE TEXTILE THAT PLUSH??
WHO LET YOU DOWN HERE? WHO EVEN TOLD YOU ABOUT THE SCARF?

MAC, I KNOW ABOUT ALL FASHION TRANSGRESSIONS IN THIS TOWN.

AND WHO'S THIS?
YOU CAN CALL ME RUNE. IT'S... MALACHI'S NICKNAME FOR ME.

OH I'M SO SORRY. 1001 BABY NAMES?
HEY-

I GO BY YOHANN, LOCAL FASHION BUFF.
MORE LIKE A LOCAL HAM, BUT... HE'S MY TAILOR.

AS FOR YOU, MISTER.
DO YOU THINK SHREDDED RAGS ARE SUITABLE FOR MAELSTROM?

YES, MY CHAMPION! HOW DARE YOU DRESS ME IN TORN GARB!
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO COMPLAIN RIGHT NOW, I NAMED THE TEAM AFTER YOU!
AND THAT WAS VERY FLATTERING!

UGH, I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS CONVERSATION.
POKEMON DETECTED!

WAIT, I HAVE AN IDEA.

RUNE, SINCE YOU CAN'T WRITE, WHY NOT TAKE THE DAY OFF?
YOU CAN GO WITH YOHANN AND MAELSTROM TO GET YOUR OWN OUTFIT!
H-HUH?

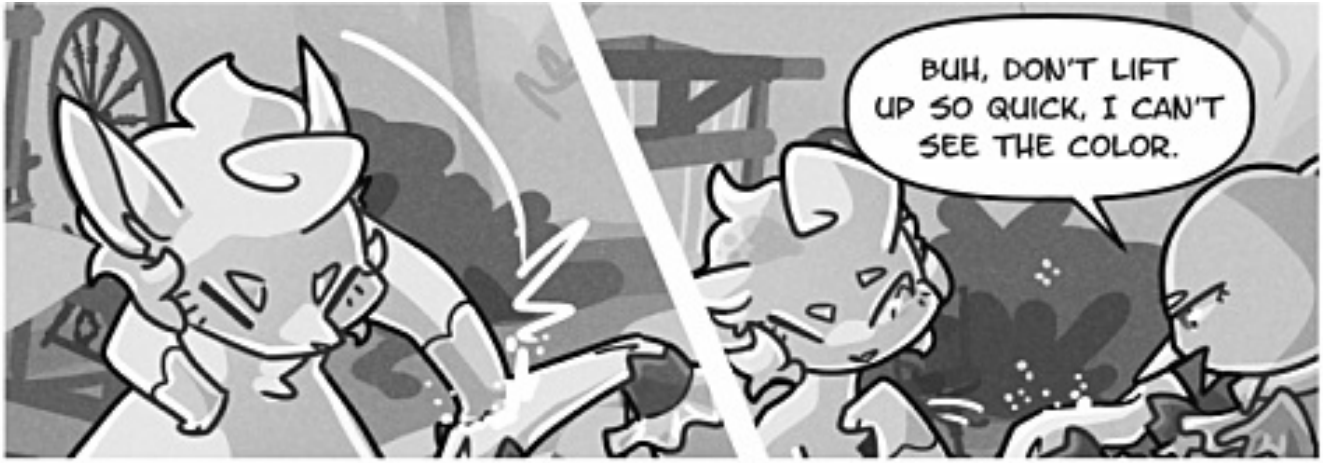
INIGO WANTS TO TRAIN WITH YOU ANYWAY TODAY, RIGHT?
GET SOME ACCESSORIES, AND SEE HOW THEY HOLD UP IN COMBAT!

YOHANN, SPARE NO EXPENSE.
YESSIR!

...
I GUESS I'M ALONE AGAIN.

YOU KNOW MOLLY, I THOUGHT YOU'D BE CHATTING UP A STORM ON THE WAY HERE.
A MAELSTROM IF YOU WILL.
OH, HER? SHE'S NOT TALKATIVE ONCE SHE'S SEPARATED FROM MALACHI, AS MUCH AS I ENJOY HER COMPANY.
NOW, WHAT STYLE ARE YOU AFTER?
PLEASE, DON'T BE SHY. MALACHI'S POCKETS ARE WEIRDLY BOTTOMLESS.
STYLE??
SIGH
I SHOULD HAVE FIGURED. LET'S START SIMPLER–
WHAT ARE YOU LIKE IN COMBAT? MAIN TECHNIQUE?
NONE. CURRENTLY.
...WELL, PERHAPS WE SHOULD KEEP YOU WELL ROUNDED FOR NOW.

YOU'RE AN ICE-TYPE VARIATION OF VULPIX, YES?
SO I'M TOLD.
LONG RANGE ELEMENTAL ATTACKS WOULD SERVE YOU WELL SOMEDAY,
BUT WE'LL KEEP THIS LOOK SIMPLE AND ADAPTABLE WITH THE CLOTH I HAVE IN MIND.
PLUS, CLIENTS LIKE THIS FABRIC'S LUCARIO TEXTILE GIMMICK.
ALRIGHT, THE PROCESS IS ACTUALLY QUITE SIMPLE.
RELAX. CALM YOURSELF...
AND NOW PRESS YOUR PAW GENTLY ON THE AURA CLOTH.
AURA...?


BUH, DON'T LIFT UP SO QUICK, I CAN'T SEE THE COLOR.

HERE, I'LL JUST TIE IT IN PLACE. JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES.
THAT'S RIGHT, STAY PERFECTLY STILL...
TAKE A DEEP BREATH... AND NOW EXHALE...
I HAVE AN AURA NOW, DON'T I?
SO WHY AM I SO NERVOUS?
FEEL THE ENERGY FLOW FROM YOU TO THE FIBERS...
AND YOUR AURA IS...
A STERLING SILVER!
AND WHY AM I SO RELIEVED?

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT EARRINGS?
HUH? I MEAN, I THINK THEY'RE COO-
GAAAH-!
'TIS THE PRICE OF BEAUTY.
THOSE NEVERMELT EARRINGS SHOULD HELP YOUR ICE ATTACKS.
ICE, HUH?
AND NOW YOU LOOK FAR LESS LIKE A SPARKLY, MANGY MUTT.
AS MUCH AS I'D LOVE TO CHEW THE FAT, IT SEEMS MALACHI'S REPAIRS ARE BOUND TO TAKE HOURS.
I DOUBT YOU WANT TO SIT AROUND FOR THAT.
ALREADY WAY AHEAD OF YOU.
I'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE TODAY.

BUMP!
THE ICE LADY IS BACK!
YOUR FUR IS SO COLD, IT'S LIKE- LIKE- A ROCK AT NIGHT!
ICE VULPIX, CAN YOU MAKE SOME SNOW?
JUST A LITTLE? PLEEEASE?
SORRY, I'M NOT AN ICE MACHINE, BUDDY.
HEY!
LET HER BE, YOU GOOBERS!
MS. RUNE IS A CUSTOMER TODAY, YOU BETTER TREAT HER AS SUCH!

SORRY, I TOLD THEM NOT TO BUG YOU AFTER CONKING YOU OUT YESTERDAY BUT I SWEAR THEY DON'T LISTEN TO A WORD I–
UM, IT'S ALRIGHT.
I DIDN'T TAKE YOU FOR THE TYPE TO SWAT AT KIDS WITH A BROOM.
OH THIS OL' THING? THEY LIKE IT.
HAH!
LET'S GET YOU IN BEFORE I MELT!
IS IT REALLY THAT HOT?
DON'T TELL ME YOU CAN'T FEEL IT! IT MUST BE THE HOTTEST DAY OF THE YEAR.
I CAN'T WAIT FOR FALL TO COME...
ANYWAY,
TODAY YOU'LL BE TRAINING IN THE COMBAT ROOM.

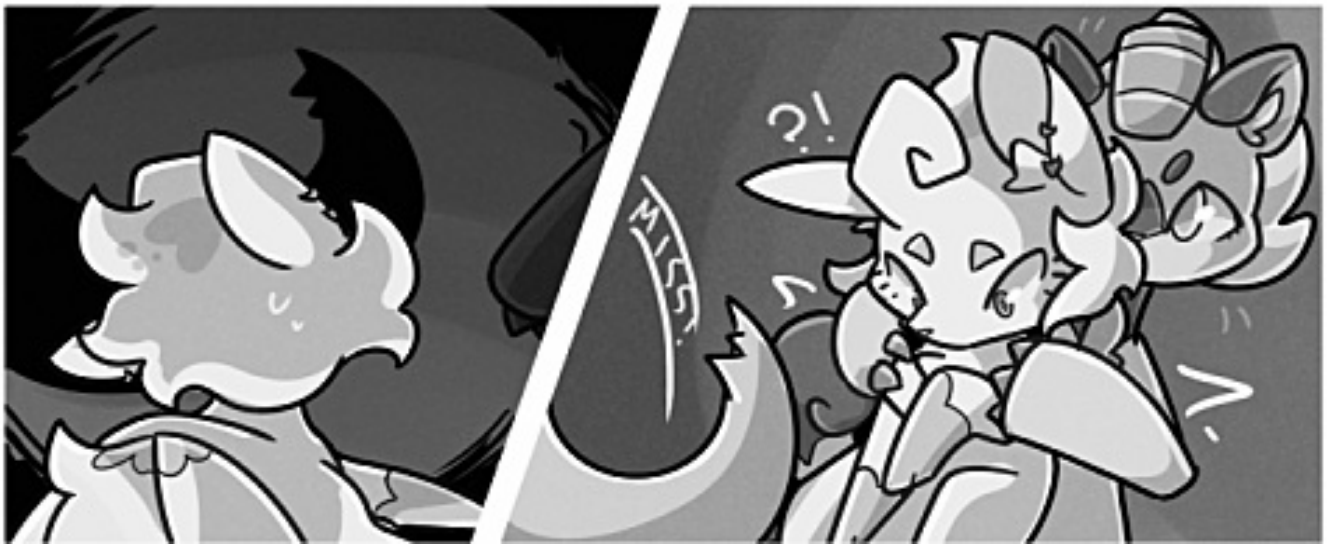
... WIT IS A VALUABLE SKILL TO HAVE, BUT IT CANNOT OUTMATCH RAW POWER.
POKEMON ARE MADE TO FIGHT, AND TO DENY YOUR SKILL IS TO REJECT YOUR STATUS AS A POKEMON.
WILL YOU USE YOUR GIFT?
POISON STING!
OW-!
HEY, I THOUGHT WE WERE TRAINING!
THUNK!
THIS IS YOUR TRAINING.

PFF!
W-WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
THAT SPEECH IS ALMOST WORD FOR WORD FROM LAST CALL OF THE WILD!
WHAT WAS THE MAIN CHARACTER'S NAME AGAIN? INDIGO-?
THE BATTLE BONDING IN THAT SERIES IS COOL OKAY??

W-WHATEVER! THE BATTLE'S STARTING NOW!
WHAT'S THAT?! USE YOUR MOVES!
DODGE
SNAP
I-I WILL, I'M JUST TRYING SOMETHING FIRST!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
MY BEST?!
YOU WANTED TO TRAIN! EITHER USE AN ELEMENTAL ATTACK OR KNOCK ME DOWN!
FINE!

DODGE!
WHUNK!


MISS!
?!

HEY, WE'RE KINDA IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING HERE!
HOW IS SHE SUPPOSED TO LEARN IF YOU JUST THROW HER IN?
SHE'S NOT GONNA LEARN IF YOU'RE BATTLING FOR HER, EITHER.
I PROMISE NOT TO LAND ANY HITS FOR HER- JUST TRUST ME.
I'VE GOT YOUR BACK!
JUST FOLLOW MY LEAD.
Vvvv
TAIL PARRY!
GOOD!
KEEP AN EYE ON HOW HE SHIFTS HIS BODY WITH EACH ATTACK-
IT'LL HELP YOU MAKE SPLIT SECOND DECISIONS.
vmmM...
SHING-!

I CAN'T PHYSICALLY COACH YOU ON TRIGGERING ELEMENTAL MOVES, BUT THE KEY IS TO FEEL THEIR INTENT.

YOUR FEINT ATTACK, AS A DARK-TYPE MOVE, CAME FROM A PLACE OF DECEIT.

YOU WANTED TO CATCH DROWZEE OFF GUARD- AND YOUR AURA ADAPTED TO A DARK-TYPE ENERGY TO MATCH THAT.

WITHOUT THE INTENT, IT WOULD'VE BEEN A NORMAL TACKLE.

SO THE KEY TO BEATING INIGO-!

VMMM

PRO TIP-

DON'T BOTHER DODGING IF YOU CAN'T STAY STANDING!

MISS

PRO TIP...

DON'T BOTHER STANDING!

FEINT ATTACK!

I...
I DID IT... ON PURPOSE THIS TIME...!

YOU DID IT!
I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT!
P-PUT ME DOWN, I'M GONNA BE SICK-
NOT BAD. YOU'RE NOW ON THE SAME SKILL LEVEL AS MOST CHILDREN.

HEY, GIVE HER A BREAK!
NOT EVERYONE GREW UP SURROUNDED BY PUNCHING BAGS.

... RUNE?
THUNK

UGH...
... WHERE AM I?
KNOCK KNOCK!
OH, YOU'RE UP!
ARE YOU WELL ENOUGH TO WALK?
I WANNA TAKE YOU OUT TO EAT AS AN APOLOGY FOR INIGO...
POISONING YOU.
UH... SURE.
AN UNDERGROUND CAFE...?
WELCOME TO BEV'S BAR!
THEY HAVE SOME OF THE BEST DRINKS IN TOWN!

DO YOU LIKE ANYTHING BLENDED WITH PECHA?
I DON'T WANT TO ORDER ON YOUR BEHALF, BUT IT'LL HELP EASE THE POISON OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM.
HONESTLY I CAN'T REALLY REMEMBER WHAT BERRIES EXIST.
I JUST KNOW THAT THEY'LL GROW IF I PUT THEM IN THE GROUND.
YOU...
DON'T REMEMBER...?
OH, I GUESS...
I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE BUT MALACHI AND THE GUILD.
I HAVE AMNESIA.
AMNESIA?!

CAN YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING...?
YOUR CHILDHOOD?
FAMILY?
NAME?
YEAH I HAVE A NAME.
IT LOOKS LIKE SCRIBBLES WHEN I WRITE IT OUT, APPARENTLY, SO MALACHI CALLS ME RUNE BECAUSE IT'S EASIER OR WHATEVER.
IT'S THE ONLY THING I CAN REMEMBER.
...
SCRIBBLES, HUH?
COULD YOU SHOW ME?

UM... YEAH.
RIP!
THIS IS THE EASIER SPELLING.
THERE'S A MORE COMPLICATED, ACCURATE ONE TOO.
HOW DO YOU PRONOUNCE IT?
UM-
A-ACTUALLY I WANNA WAIT.
I WANNA SHOW YOU THE FULL MEANING, BUT IT'S HARD TO WRITE ON NAPKINS, AND I NEED A LITTLE PRACTICE-!
NO RUSH. I LOOK FORWARD TO IT.

ARE YOU OKAY WITH RUNE IN THE MEANTIME?

I KNOW I JUST HAD A THING ABOUT IT BUT... I DON'T MIND IT.

IT'S THE FIRST NICKNAME I'VE EVER HAD, AND I LIKE THAT.

I DUNNO. IT'S COMPLICATED.

HOWDY!

WHAT CAN I GETCHA?

OOH, A HONEY PECHA SPECIAL FOR HER,

AND A CHOPLE BERRY CREAM FOR ME!

...

GOTCHA!

... THANKS FOR HELPING ME BACK THERE. AND UM, NOW.

I'M GLAD TO!

INIGO'S TRAINING METHODS SOMETIMES ARE A BIT... UNORTHODOX. POISON STING WAS A POOR CHOICE FOR A FIRST BATTLE.

... IS IT TRUE THAT MOST CHILDREN CAN ALREADY USE ELEMENTAL MOVES?

W-WELL!

I GUESS IT'S NOT COMMON FOR SOMEONE TO NOT KNOW BASIC MOVES INTO ADULTHOOD, BUT...
CAN I TELL YOU A SECRET?
UH-

I'M NOT THE BEST AT BATTLING, EITHER.

HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, IF YOU DIDN'T GUIDE ME BACK THERE, INIGO WOULD HAVE CREAMED ME!

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T KNOW HOW!
HOW COULDN'T I, I LIVE IN A DOJO!
MISS!

BUT WHAT I KNOW HOW TO DO IN MY HEAD,
AND WHAT MY BODY IS PHYSICALLY CAPABLE OF PERFORMING JUST DON'T LINE UP.

WHEN I WAS BORN,
MY PARENTS BOTH HAD VERY HIGH, AND VERY DIFFERENT EXPECTATIONS OF MY ABILITIES.
I THOUGHT THAT LIVING WITH MOXIE WOULD CHANGE THAT...
BUT IT DOESN'T.
IT FOLLOWS ME WHEREVER I GO.
THEN WHY NOT TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT?
H-HUH?
STOP LIVING UP TO ALL THE EXPECTATIONS OF EVERYONE ELSE!
BE WHO YOU WANT TO BE!
DIELLE, WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I...
REALLY WANT TO SEE THE WORLD?
GOING TO MT. BRISTLE WAS STRESSFUL, BUT... EXCITING.
WELL??
YOU CAN JOIN TEAM MAELSTROM THEN, WIGGLYTUFF ALREADY PERSONALLY INVITED YOU!
BUT... WHAT IF I'M NOT GOOD AT IT?
I'M GOOD AT TAKING CARE OF KIDS, BUT NOT-
ISN'T IT WORTH A SHOT IF IT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO DO?
JUST ONE DAY ON THE FIELD, TO SEE HOW YOU FEEL.
YOU MAKE A CONVINCING ARGUMENT!
CLATTER-!
HERE YA GO!

... HUH, THIS IS PRETTY GOOD!

...
DO YOU... WANT SOME?
YES

SIP...

PBTHTH
IS THIS...
SPICY MILK??

SO WHAT IF IT IS??
YOURS JUST TASTES LIKE GLORIFIED WATER.
WHAT, ARE YOU LIKE MALACHI?? YOU'RE PAYING REAL MONEY FOR AN AFFRONT TO GOD

... HE WAS JUST ABOUT PERFECT!
WE MIGHT HAVE A NEW SENTRY ON OUR HANDS!
HAHA! I SURE HOPE NOT!
AH GOOD, YOU'VE ALL ASSEMBLED.
WE MAY AS WELL GET YOU ALL REGISTERED WHILE YOU'RE HERE.
FOLLOW ME.
CREEEAK...

HI, HI! CONGRATS ON YOUR NEW TEAMMATES!
WILL YOU ALL BE REGISTERING TODAY?
JUST THREE OF US. ME, MALACHI, AND INIGO.
I JUST WANNA SEE WHAT IT'S LIKE BEFORE COMMITTING!
OKIE-DOKIE!
SO, BY THE POWERS BESTOWED IN ME,
I NOW ANNOUNCE YOU AS PART OF TEAM MAELSTROM!
YOOM-TAH!
VOOSH
YOUR TEAM GETS A COMPLIMENTARY TREASURE BAG,
AND YOUR BADGES HAVE BEEN CALIBRATED TO YOUR HOME BASE!
TO TELEPORT THERE, YOU'LL NEED TO PHYSICALLY TOUCH YOUR BADGE WITH THE INTENT TO LEAVE THE DUNGEON.

AAAND...
SIGH
AND, WE ALSO HAVE ASSEMBLED YOU HERE TO ASSIGN YOUR FIRST MISSION.
MALACHITE FALLS, THE NEXT SETTLEMENT OVER, HAS RECENTLY BEEN EXPERIENCING A STRANGE ILLNESS OVERTAKING THE TOWN.
WE SUSPECT IT'S RELATED TO A CONTAMINANT IN THE WATER SUPPLY.
WE NEED YOUR TEAM TO GO THERE AND COLLECT WATER SAMPLES.
WAIT... YOU MEAN A REAL, HONEST TO GOD EXPLORATION?!
... I SUPPOSE IF YOU CONSIDER WATER SAMPLES AN EXPLORATION, THEN YES.
WE WON'T LET YOU DOWN!

AND HERE'S THE PIECE YOU COMMISSIONED.

I WANTED TO GIVE MAELSTROM A MORE *REGAL* LOOK, BECAUSE SHE'S EARNED IT.

I HAVE!

IT'S, UM.

VERY FLASHY.

I QUITE LIKE IT! THANK YOU, FRIEND YOHANN!

FLASHY IS RIGHT!

IT'S A *FLASH SCARF*, WOVEN WITH STRAW FIBERS STRAIGHT FROM AMP PLAINS.

YOUR ATTACK POWER AND STAMINA SHOULD IMPROVE.

AMP PLAINS, HUH...?

AND YOUR LITTLE VULPIX FRIEND GOT EARRINGS AND A BOW TO KEEP HER TAILS OUT OF THE WAY.

NOT A BAD JOB, IF I SAY SO MYSELF.

IT'S SUPER CUTE!

I WAS HOPING IT'D EVOKE "COOL", BUT I'LL TAKE "CUTE".

HEY, YOU DON'T SUPPOSE WE COULD GET SOME ACCESSORIES FOR OUR NEW TEAMMATES, DO YOU?
HMM...
I SUPPOSE I COULD.
HOWEVER, I'M RUNNING LOW ON GENERIC FIBERS FOR CUSTOM ORDERS, AND MY NEXT SHIPMENT IS STILL WEEKS OUT.
I CAN WHIP SOMETHING UP FOR YOU IF YOU CAN FIND SOME. TRY COTTON.
HOW HARD CAN THAT BE?
FLICK!
HOW DO THEY SELL EVERYTHING EXCEPT COTTON?!
YOU WENT TO KECLEON MARKET DIDN'T YOU.
SO WE WENT TO KECLEON MARKET,

HONESTLY MAC, YOU'RE SO PREDICTABLE.
YOU MUST TAKE ME FOR STUPID IF YOU THINK I HAVEN'T TRIED THAT.

hmm...

WE'RE HEADED TO WATERFALL TOWN TOMORROW, RIGHT?
YOU MEAN MALACHITE FALLS? YEAH, WHY?

THERE'S A PLANT THAT GROWS BY THE WATER WITH FLUFFY SEEDS-

WOULD THOSE WORK INSTEAD OF COTTON?

THAT SOUNDS STUPID.

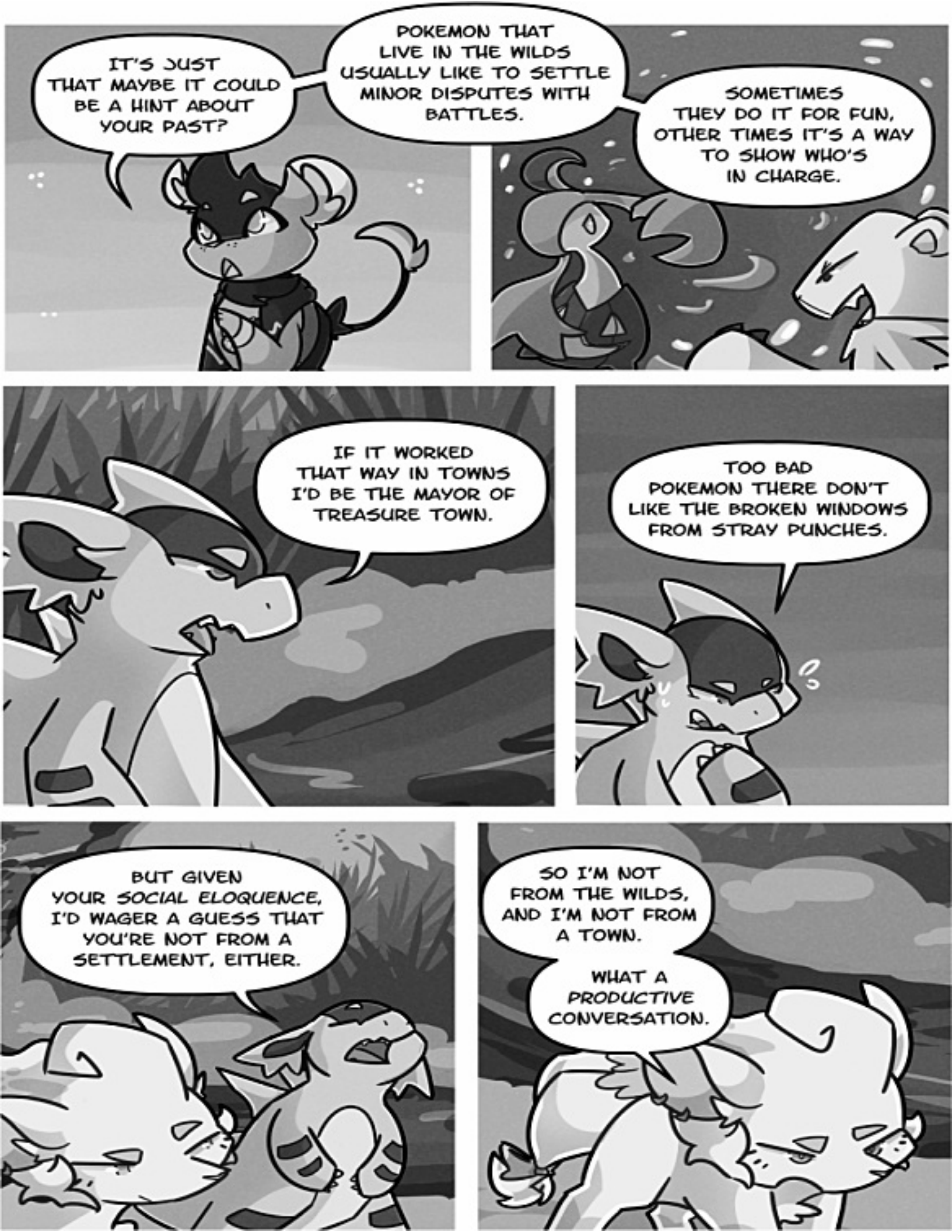
BUT FUN.
I'M NOTHING IF NOT ADVENTUROUS. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THEM IN PERSON.

WE'LL BRING BACK A BUNCH, THEN!
OH MAC,

I SAID IN PERSON.
I WANT AN ESCORT MISSION.
END OF CHAPTER 4

Chapter 5
The First Official Exploration

HOT SPRINGS HERE WE COME!
HUH?
OH, MALACHITE FALLS IS KNOWN FOR THEIR HOT SPRINGS!
POKEMON COME FROM ALL OVER TO SOAK AND REJUVENATE THEMSELVES.
IT'S ALSO A TOTAL TOURIST TRAP.
REJUVENATE, HUH?
I COULD REALLY USE THE RELAXATION AFTER ALL THE POKEMON WE'VE HAD TO FIGHT LATELY...
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT, ANYWAY?
EVERYONE IN DUNGEONS WANTS TO FIGHT AT THE DROP OF A HAT.
IS THAT NOT NORMAL WHERE YOU'RE FROM?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN??


IT'S JUST THAT MAYBE IT COULD BE A HINT ABOUT YOUR PAST?
POKEMON THAT LIVE IN THE WILDS USUALLY LIKE TO SETTLE MINOR DISPUTES WITH BATTLES.
SOMETIMES THEY DO IT FOR FUN, OTHER TIMES IT'S A WAY TO SHOW WHO'S IN CHARGE.
IF IT WORKED THAT WAY IN TOWNS I'D BE THE MAYOR OF TREASURE TOWN.
TOO BAD POKEMON THERE DON'T LIKE THE BROKEN WINDOWS FROM STRAY PUNCHES.
BUT GIVEN YOUR SOCIAL ELOQUENCE, I'D WAGER A GUESS THAT YOU'RE NOT FROM A SETTLEMENT, EITHER.
SO I'M NOT FROM THE WILDS, AND I'M NOT FROM A TOWN.
WHAT A PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATION.

PERHAPS YOU ARE LIKE ME, FRIEND RUNE!

A ROCK?

HAHA! NO!

I JUST STARTED EXISTING ONE DAY!

ALL I KNOW IS THAT I HAVE CHOSEN MALACHI AS MY CHAMPION TO HELP ME REMEMBER MY PURPOSE!

HEY, SO IF YOU'RE AN AMNESIAC, AND RUNE'S AN AMNESIAC...

I DON'T THINK I LIKE THIS TRAIN OF THOUGHT.

HOW DOES A ROCK GET AMNESIA, ANYWAY?

WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS ALREADY, SHE'S NOT A ROCK, SHE'S PROBABLY A SPIRITOMB!

WHO'S STUCK IN A ROCK.

HEY VULPIX, WANNA USE FAIRY WIND TO TEST THAT THEORY?

NO NEED! AND I AM CERTAIN I AM NOT THAT, BUT INSTEAD A GREATER POWER!

... I THINK.

DON'T WORRY MOLLY,
I'M SURE WE'LL FIND OUT WHAT YOU ARE SOON ENOUGH!
... SO MUCH FOR "TOURIST TRAP", HUH?
WHERE IS EVERYONE?
DIDN'T CHATOT SAY THAT everyone WAS GETTING SICK?
HEY, MAYBE WE CAN ASK HER?
HFF... HFF...
GUH-!
SH-SHE'S IN TROUBLE!

SHE'S BURNING UP-
SORRY VULPIX, BUT YOU'RE THE LIVING ICE PACK OF THE GROUP.
WHICH WAY TO THE INFIRMARY?
PERHAPS THAT BIG MEDICAL SIGN NEAR THE WORD "INFIRMARY"?
GUH... T-THANKS...
SHF SHF!
ANOTHER ONE?!
UGH...
GUH...
THAT'S THE FOURTH ONE TODAY...
KOFF KOFF!

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING HER IN THOUGH, THE FEVERS CAN REALLY HIT OUT OF NOWHERE.
OH, IT'S NO TROUBLE! WE'RE JUST GLAD WE GOT HER IN.

I HOPE YOU'RE NOT HERE FOR LEISURE, THE CONTAMINATION HAS NEVER BEEN THIS BAD BEFORE.
MEDICAL SUPPLIES ARE LOW... I JUST PUT IN A REQUEST FOR HELP FROM THE GUILD.

OH, WE'RE ACTUALLY WITH THE GUILD!
TEAM MAELSTROM, AT YOUR SERVICE.

WELL TEAM MAELSTROM, OUR TOWN CERTAINLY APPRECIATES ANY HELP WE CAN GET.
JUST STAY SAFE OUT THERE, ALRIGHT?

WILL DO!
WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS, I PROMISE!

"GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS"... WE ARE JUST HERE TO COLLECT SAMPLES, RIGHT MALACHI?
W-WELL-!

MAYBE WE CAN SPEND SOME TIME TO TRY AND FIND WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE WATER IN THE MEANTIME?
IT CAN'T HURT TO DO SOME INVESTIGATING, RIGHT?
I GUESS NOT.
BLEH! I STHILL GOT STHEEDS IN MY MOUTH...
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR TRYING TO EAT RANDOM GARBAGE.
FSSSSH....

ALREADY COLLECTING THE FINAL SAMPLE, AND WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND EVEN A *HINT* TOWARDS WHAT'S TAINTING THE WATER...
ALL THE POOLS LOOK FINE.
CHEER UP, SHINX. MAYBE THE REAL EXPLORATION TEAMS WILL FIGURE IT OUT.
THE REAL EXPLORATION TEAMS...
YEAH.
SHING!

A WATERFALL VISION...?
FSSSSSH...
SPLASH!
FSSSSSS...

SHAAAAAAH—

GAH!
SHAAAAAAH—

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?! YOU ALMOST FELL RIGHT IN!
WITH A WATERFALL THAT BIG, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN PULVERIZED. WATCH YOUR STEP, YEAH?

YEAH...

WELL, I GUESS WE SHOULD HEAD BACK, HUH?
HOLD ON.

I'M- I'M GONNA TRY SOMETHING FIRST.

IF I GO FAST ENOUGH, IT SHOULDN'T BE AN ISSUE, RIGHT?

FOOOSH—!
HEY, THERE'S A CAVE BACK HERE!

IT'S TOO HIGH TO JUMP BACK... HOW CAN I GET THEIR ATTENTION?

RUNE!
D-DID SHE DIE?!

TOK!
OUCH-!

WAIT, DID THAT JUST COME FROM THE WATERFALL?
THERE'S SOMETHING OVER THERE?

SPLASH!
H-HEY!

AND YOU ALL THOUGHT I WAS SILLY FOR WEARING THIS.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE- HEY WAIT!

ONWARD MY CHAMPION! INTO THE UNKNOWN!
GUHHH, ALRIGHT...

SPLOOSH!

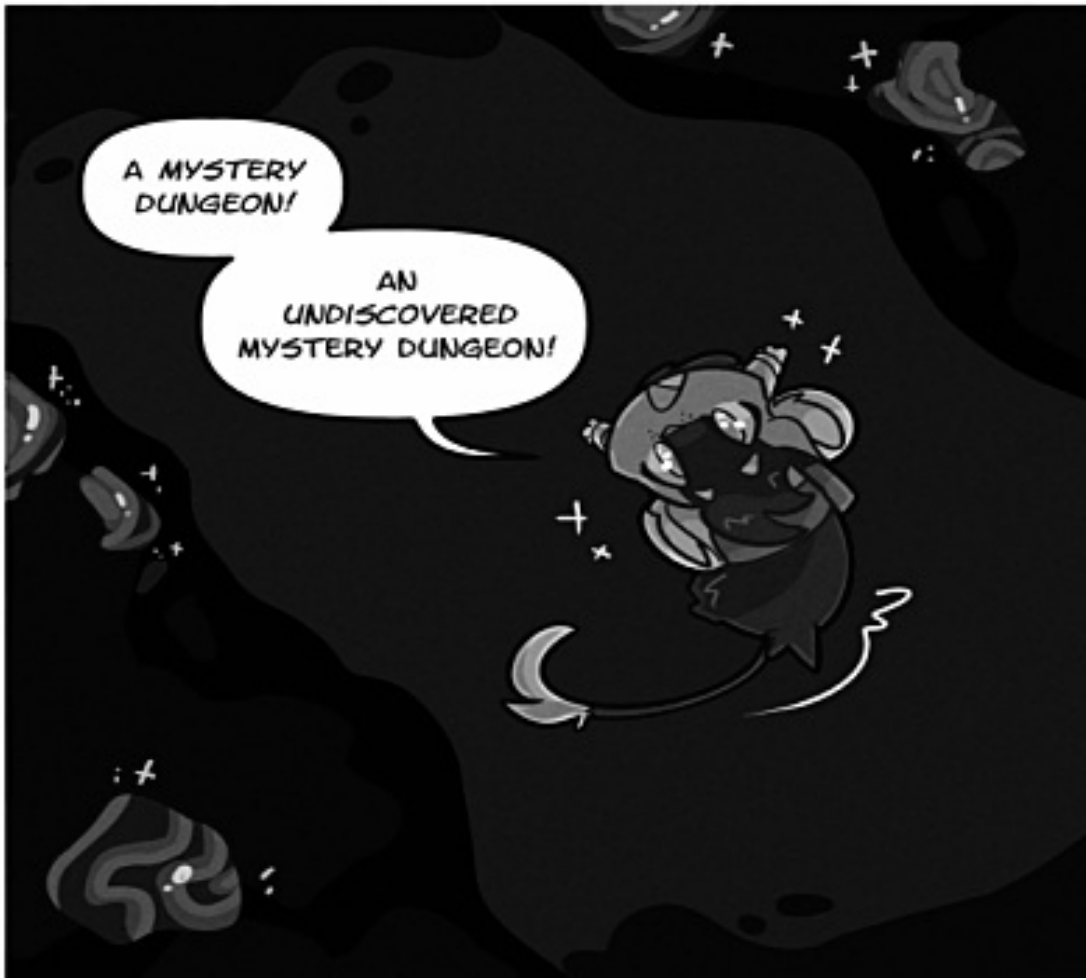
HOW DID YOU KNOW THERE WAS SOMETHING BACK HERE?
UM, I SAW THE LEDGE.

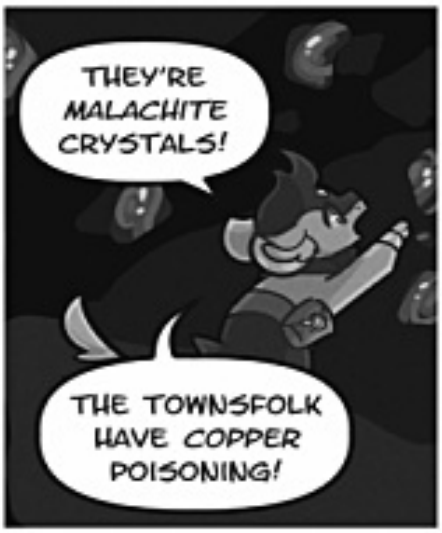
YOU COULD SEE THROUGH ALL THE WATER?
WHAT IF YOU DIDN'T MAKE THE JUMP AND GOT HURT?

HEY, I DIDN'T THOUGH. I'VE GOT THAT NATURAL INTUITION.
NO NEED TO BE A...

WET BLANKET ABOUT IT.

WAIT A MINUTE... THIS IS-
VOOOOM...


A MYSTERY DUNGEON!
AN UNDISCOVERED MYSTERY DUNGEON!



Waterfall Cave B1F Lv. 10

I THINK WE'LL HAVE TO SPLIT UP.
GOOD IDEA.

SINCE I IMAGINE WE'LL BE AT THIS FOR A WHILE, DO YOU HAVE ANY BUFFS IN MIND FOR YOUR ACCESSORIES, NIDORINA?
OFFENSE IS THE BEST DEFENSE FOR ME. ANYTHING THAT BUFFS UP MY MOVES.

SO PROBABLY A POWER BAND...
I WONDER WHAT BERRY FIBERS I SHOULD USE... LIECHI?

GH-!
WHOA!
SHOOM!

GAH!
I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE SKIPPED MY PERSIM LATTE THIS MORNING, HOW DREADFUL.
YOU SURE YOU NEEDED AN ESCORT? SEEMS LIKE YOU COULD HOLD YOUR OWN.
HMPH, I'M QUITE CERTAIN.
MY HEADACHES– AND PSYCHIC ENERGY– AREN'T WELL CONTROLLED IF I DON'T TAKE PERSIM OR PAYAPA BERRIES.
WHY NOT EVOLVE THEN? GOLDUCKS DON'T HAVE THAT PROBLEM, DO THEY?
AND START MY CLOSET FROM SCRATCH? HA! NO THANKS. YELLOW'S MY COLOR ANYWAY.
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, SHINX?
HAVE ANY PLANS TO FINISH EVOLVING?
H-HUH?

YOU KNOW YOU WON'T GET ANY OF THE POWER BUFFS FOR YOUR AURA UNTIL YOU COMPLETE IT, RIGHT?
ZZT!
MAYBE I LIKE BEING A SHINX.
BZZZ...
... IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN GO BACK ANYWAY.
ZZZ...
AND YOU ARE LOVELY THE WAY YOU ARE, MY CHAMPION!
... THANKS MAELSTROM.
A-ACK!
?
CRRK
CRACK!
CRACK!
UMP!

AGH, GREAT!
HOW ARE WE GONNA GET OUT NOW?
SSSS
I WILL USE MY BIG POWERFUL ARMS TO PULL US OUT!
HELL YEAH! LET'S SEE IT!
SHE WAS JOKING.
A LITTLE JAPE!
I-I KNEW THAT.
NO BIG DEAL, I'VE GOT THIS HANDLED.
WHUNK!
I DON'T THINK IT LIKES YOU.
DUNGEONS DON'T HAVE FEELINGS.
YES THEY DO!

?
ER-
WHAT I MEAN IS THAT THEY HAVE MEASURES TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM CERTAIN STIMULI.
LIKE PUNCHING.
WATCH AND LEARN!
ZZT!
DINK!
VERY EFFECTIVE. I'M LEARNING SO MUCH ALREADY.
MAC, TRY TO THINK.
THAT'S WHAT I DO ALL THE TIME, ACTUALLY.
EXCELLENT. DO IT BETTER.
HEY NOW, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT US HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
UGHHH, NO WONDER ALL THE BEST EXPLORERS SAY "DON'T TAKE ESCORTS".

VERY BOLD OF YOU CONSIDERING YOU DIDN'T LAST ONE DAY IN MY SHOP.
HUH?? HE WORKED FOR YOU??

WHAT HE DID WAS BUMBLE HIS WAY INTO MY WORKSHOP AND STAIN SEVERAL COMMISSIONS WITH A DISASTROUS COFFEE RUN.

IT'S OKAY, HE COMPENSATED ME FOR IT.
BOTH MONETARILY AND BY MAKING SURE I DON'T GO A WAKING MOMENT WITHOUT HIS COMPANY.
I CAN STILL HEAR YOU.

AND NOW I GET TO BE THE CLIENT, HA!

DUDE, HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOU HAVE?
UGHH, FOCUSING OVER HERE, GUYS!

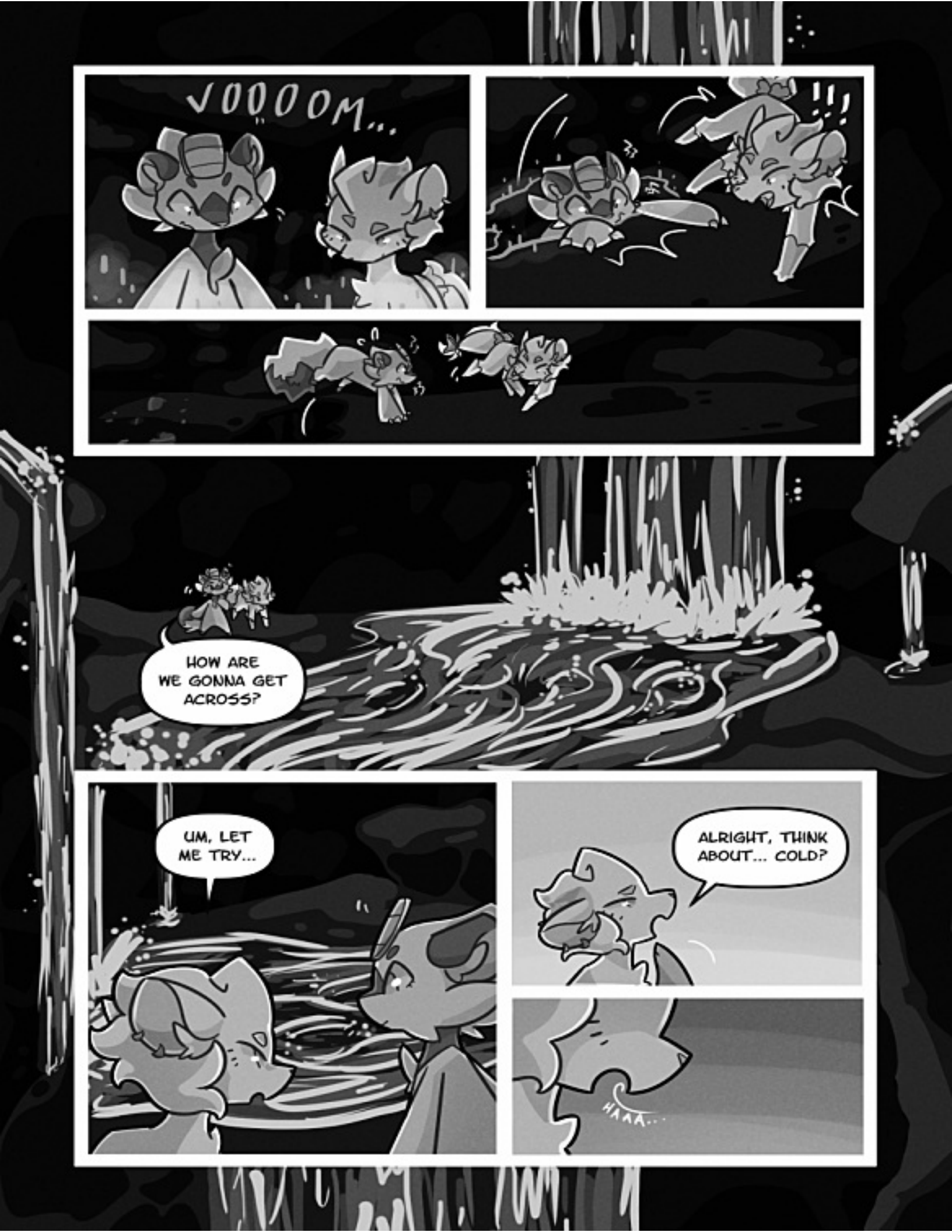
SHOOOM...
Malachi used Quick Attack!
... HERE!
GET READY TO GET WET, GUYS.
HUH.
GOOD THINKING I GUESS, SHINX.
YEAH.

HEY, MALACHI.
I MEAN IT. AND I'M... SORRY, IF IT SOUNDED LIKE I WAS JUDGING YOU.
EVOLVED OR NOT, YOU'RE A COOL GUY.
THANKS.
HEY-!
C'MON MAC, WE HAVE ENOUGH SAMPLES HERE.
PSSSH
BESIDES, I'M ALREADY COMING UP WITH NEW OUTFIT IDEAS AS WE SPEAK.
RRRRRRRRR
THAT SOUNDS GOOD.
WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED A CAVE THIS PRETTY COULD CAUSE THE TOWN SO MUCH TROUBLE?

I GOTTA ADMIT, I STILL DON'T GET THE WHOLE... "MYSTERY DUNGEON" THING.
VOOOOM...
THEY CAN JUST POP UP ANYWHERE LIKE THIS AND RUIN SOMEONE'S LIFE. ISN'T EVERYONE... AFRAID?
CRRK!
WELL THEY DIDN'T USE TO DO THIS.
NEW DUNGEONS WOULDN'T REALLY SHOW UP, AND IF THEY DID, THEY RARELY SHIFTED THE ENVIRONMENT.
MAYBE THE STOLEN TIME GEAR IS MAKING THEM GROW LIKE CRAZY.
SHAAAAH...
TIME GEARS... EVERYONE KEEPS TALKING ABOUT THOSE, BUT I BARELY REMEMBER WHAT THEY ARE.
THEY CONTROL... TIME? IN ISOLATED AREAS?
SORT OF! I THINK THEY ALL USED TO BE PART OF THE SAME, UH, THING?
LEMME SEE IF I CAN REMEMBER THE STORY...

IN AN AGE LONG GONE,
TIME HAD...
FINGERS?
AND IT'S WEARING RINGS.
ON ALL OF ITS FINGERS.
THERE'S A RING OF AMBITION, AND UH...
WAIT... I THINK I JUST MADE THAT UP...
TIME HAS HANDS?
NOT LITERALLY!
OR MAYBE IT IS LITERAL, I DIDN'T THINK THE RINGS WERE LITERAL.
I THINK THOSE WERE SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT THE TIME GEARS.
MAYBE INIGO HAS THE MYTH MEMORIZED.
I NEVER BOTHERED BECAUSE I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS REAL...
NOBODY DID.
SHINK!

ARE YOU OKAY?
Y-YEAH...
Ssss....
SHINK!
IT'S LIKE THE DUNGEON IS TRYING TO STOP US FROM GOING FORWARD...
BUT THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.
OUCH!
STAND BACK.
ZZZZT
IT WORKED!


VOOOOM...
HOW ARE WE GONNA GET ACROSS?
UM, LET ME TRY...
ALRIGHT, THINK ABOUT... COLD?
HAAA...

KOFF KOFF!
GAH! WHY CAN'T I GET MY BODY TO DO WHAT I WANT?!
CHURN.. CHURN..
WAIT- I THINK I HAVE A WEIRD HUNCH...
FOLLOW ME!
JUST WATCH CAREFULLY WHERE I STEP.
??
?
A DEAD END...?
CRACK!

SPLASH
AAAAAA-
AAAAAAAAAAAH
S-JUMP!
CRRCK!
ON A COUNT OF THREE- ONE, TWO- GAH!
JUST JUMP! JUMP!

SPLOOSH!

PHEW...

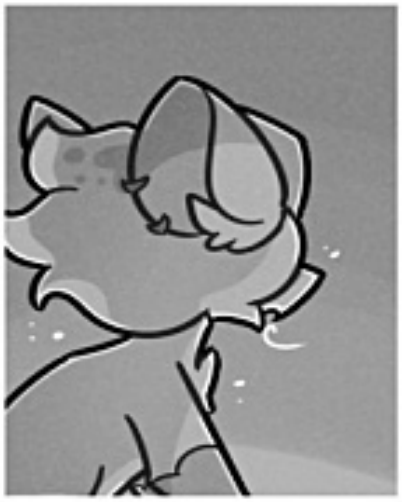
SH
NK!

AIMING-!

ZZT!

SHINK!

G-GAH, KEEP A COOL HEAD-!

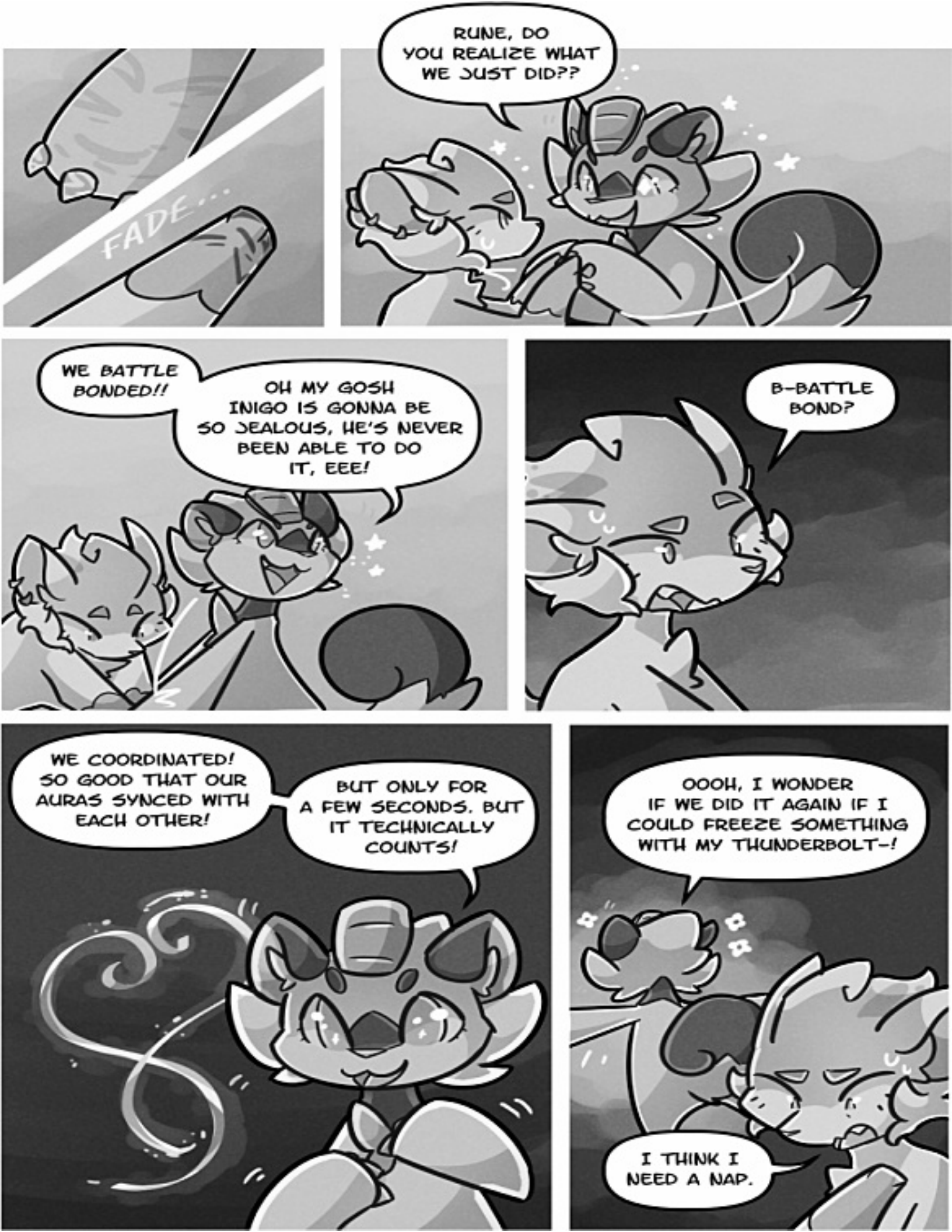


HA!
Rune's Snow Warning activated!

AH-?
NO-
NO-
NO-!
I RUINED IT, WE'RE GONNA DIE-!

YOU DIDN'T RUIN IT!
WE'RE GONNA BE OKAY, TRUST ME!
HOLD ONTO ME-
YOU SEE THAT LEDGE?
WE CAN MAKE IT.
I'LL BREAK THE TRACK INTO A RAMP, AND YOU ICE IT OVER, OKAY?
READY-
SET-
GO!

WHUMP!
UGH...
GHH...
H-HUH??
DIELLE, YOUR HAND-!
GAH! MY HAND!
WAH!
THIS IS-!


FADE...
RUNE, DO YOU REALIZE WHAT WE JUST DID??
WE BATTLE BONDED!!
OH MY GOSH INIGO IS GONNA BE SO JEALOUS, HE'S NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DO IT, EEE!
B-BATTLE BOND?
WE COORDINATED! SO GOOD THAT OUR AURAS SYNCED WITH EACH OTHER!
BUT ONLY FOR A FEW SECONDS. BUT IT TECHNICALLY COUNTS!
OOOH, I WONDER IF WE DID IT AGAIN IF I COULD FREEZE SOMETHING WITH MY THUNDERBOLT-!
I THINK I NEED A NAP.

IS THIS THE CENTER OF THE DUNGEON...?
IT'S SO PRETTY...
GLOOOW...

WHAT ARE YOUR BETS THE GLOWING GEM HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE WATER?
WAIT! IS IT POISONOUS?
I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S ONLY IF YOU DRINK IT.
OH, RIGHT!
SHI
NG!

HMM

WHY IS HE JUST LEAVING?

FSSS...

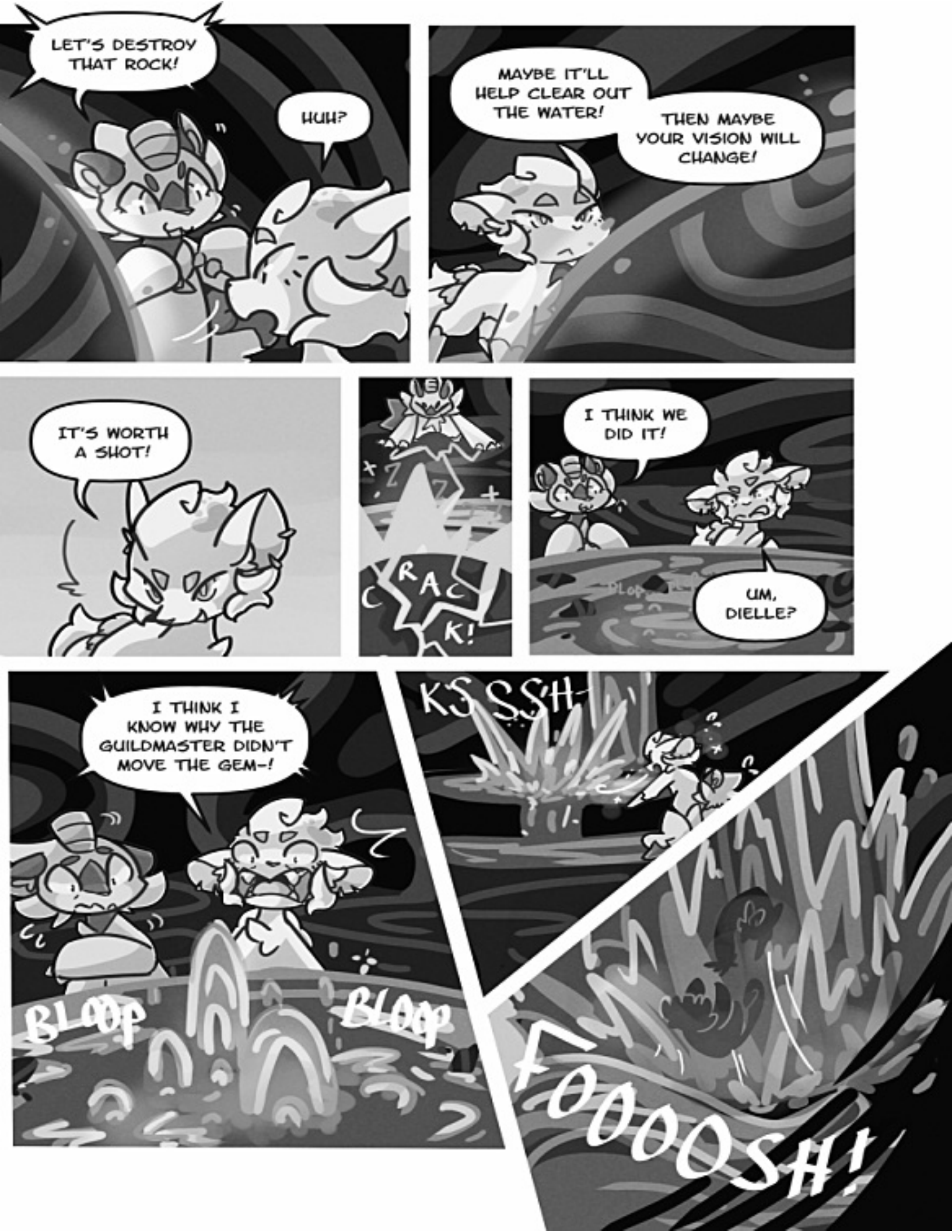
HUH-

W-WAIT, THE GEM-!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN THE GEM??

YOU PASSED OUT AGAIN, WHAT IF YOU HAVE COPPER POISONING?!
WE NEED TO GET YOU HELP!
I-!

I HAVEN'T BEEN COMPLETELY HONEST WITH YOU GUYS...

SEE, THE REASON I KNEW WHERE THAT KID WAS,
THE REASON I KNEW WHAT WAS HIDDEN BEHIND THE WATERFALL...
IS BECAUSE I SOMETIMES GET VISIONS WHEN I TOUCH THINGS.
AND JUST NOW, I HAD A VISION ABOUT THAT GEM,
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS AND NOW YOU PROBABLY THINK I'M WEIRD OR CRAZY OR-!
WHAT WAS THE VISION?
I THINK I SAW THE GUILDMASTER?
I SAW HIM IN MY VISION EARLIER WHEN I TOUCHED THE WATERFALL, BUT THIS TIME HE JUST WALKED UP TO THAT GEM AND...
LEFT IT ALONE.
hmm...
WHAT IF WE TRIED CHANGING THE FUTURE?


LET'S DESTROY THAT ROCK!
HUH?
MAYBE IT'LL HELP CLEAR OUT THE WATER!
THEN MAYBE YOUR VISION WILL CHANGE!
IT'S WORTH A SHOT!
CRACK!
I THINK WE DID IT!
BLOP
UM, DIELLE?
I THINK I KNOW WHY THE GUILDMASTER DIDN'T MOVE THE GEM-!
BLOP
BLOP
KSSSH
FOOOSH!

EUGH...
WHO CRACKED A ROTTEN EGG...?
WAIT- DIELLE-?!
PHEW...
YOU'RE UP!
TORKOAL SAID TO LET YOU REST, OTHERWISE I WOULD HAVE WOKEN YOU UP SOONER! THE SPRINGS ARE NICE, HUH?
EH, I GUESS I'D RATHER WAKE UP NEXT TO A HOT SPRING THAN A BUCKET OF COLD WATER ON MY HEAD.
HEY-!

WELL, THAT CERTAINLY WAS ONE WAY TO GET TO THE HOT SPRINGS.
WE FLUSHED YOU GUYS OUT TOO?
WAIT, YOU DID THAT??
MY CHAMPION NEEDED THE BATH!
OH, YEAH. DIELLE AND I FOUND THE HEART OF THE DUNGEON, I THINK.
AND UHH- BLEW IT UP? SO, PUZZLE SOLVED.
MM, WE APPRECIATE THE EFFORT, BUT I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.
NEVERTHELESS, I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU ARE ALL MOVING AND WELL. THE WATER TOOK YOU ON A BIT OF A TRIP, HM?

YOUR FRIENDS TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR DISCOVERY.

IT'S A SHAME, REALLY.

EVEN WITH AN EXPERT EXCAVATION TEAM, THERE'S NO UNDOING A MYSTERY DUNGEON.

REMOVING THE GEMS WILL ONLY BE A TEMPORARY SOLUTION, MANIFESTING AGAIN IN SHORT TIME.

SEEMS WE'LL HAVE TO RELOCATE THE TOWN ACROSS THE RIVER HERE FOR AN UNTAINTED WELL.

MAYBE NOT, COULDN'T THE GUILD SUPPLY THE TOWN WITH ENTERCARDS TO WARD OFF THE MALACHITE FORMATION?

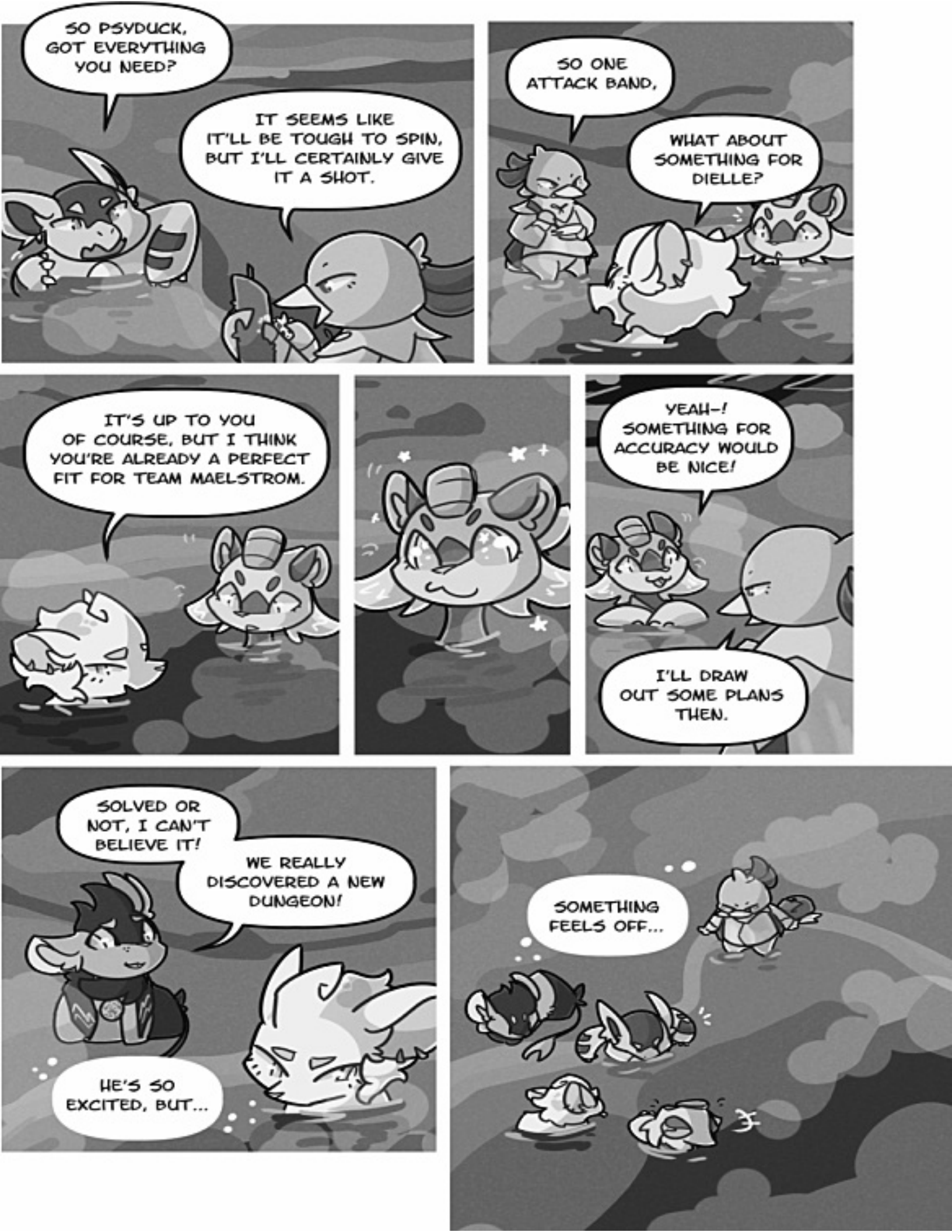
OH HO! I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE FLATTERED YOU THINK OUR TOWN IS SO WEALTHY.

YOU'RE QUITE YOUNG TO FRET OVER THIS.

THE GUILD WILL SEND A PROPER TEAM TO SOLVE THIS IN DUE TIME.

AH! WHY DON'T YOU ALL RELAX BEFORE GOING HOME?

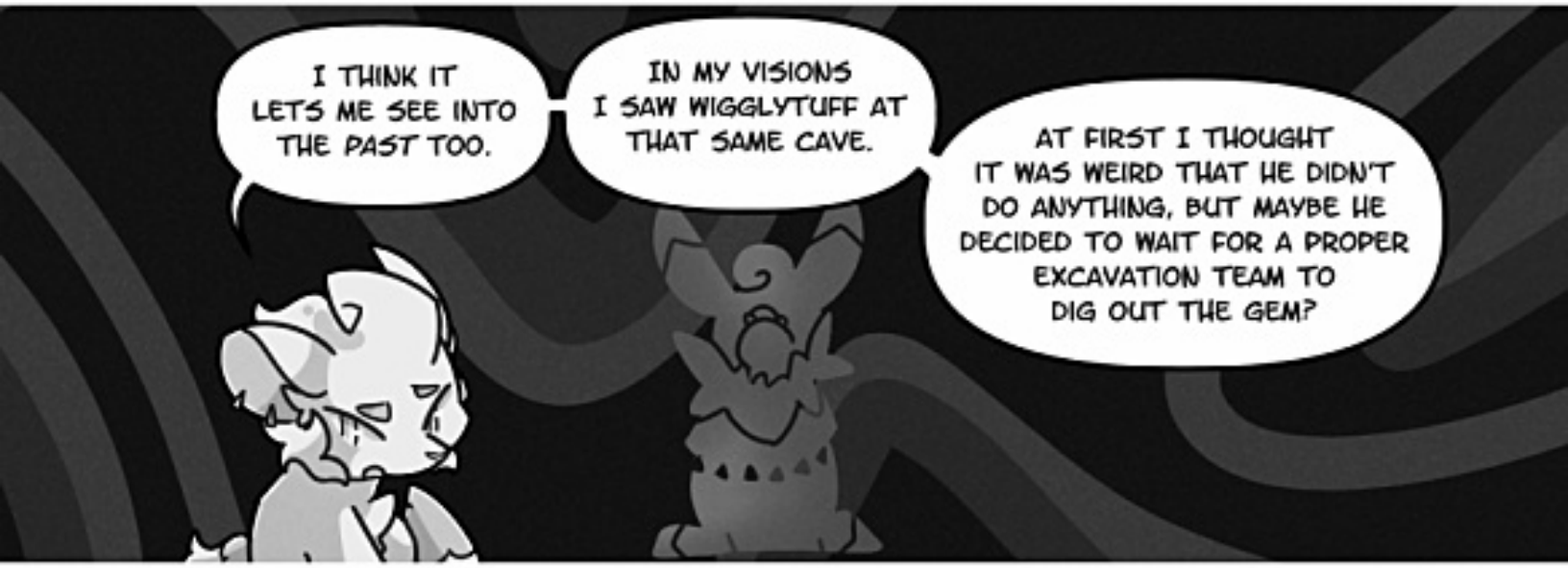
MM...


SO PSYDUCK, GOT EVERYTHING YOU NEED?
IT SEEMS LIKE IT'LL BE TOUGH TO SPIN, BUT I'LL CERTAINLY GIVE IT A SHOT.
SO ONE ATTACK BAND,
WHAT ABOUT SOMETHING FOR DIELLE?
IT'S UP TO YOU OF COURSE, BUT I THINK YOU'RE ALREADY A PERFECT FIT FOR TEAM MAELSTROM.
YEAH–! SOMETHING FOR ACCURACY WOULD BE NICE!
I'LL DRAW OUT SOME PLANS THEN.
SOLVED OR NOT, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
WE REALLY DISCOVERED A NEW DUNGEON!
HE'S SO EXCITED, BUT...
SOMETHING FEELS OFF...

... AND WE FOUND THE SOURCE OF THE COPPER POISONING WAS A NEWLY-DEVELOPED MYSTERY DUNGEON!
WELL THIS IS SURPRISING NEWS INDEED.
GOOD WORK, ROOKIES. THIS SORT OF DISCOVERY WILL EASILY TAKE YOU UP TO NORMAL RANK FROM THE GUILD APPRENTICE RANK.
ACTUALLY...
GUILDMASTER, I HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK.
OH? GO AHEAD, FRIEND!
HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE WATERFALL CAVE BEFORE?

WHY DO YOU ASK?
UM...

I HAVE AN ABILITY THAT LETS ME SEE INTO THE FUTURE WHEN I TOUCH CERTAIN OBJECTS...
BUT WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT IT SOME MORE...


I THINK IT LETS ME SEE INTO THE PAST TOO.
IN MY VISIONS I SAW WIGGLYTUFF AT THAT SAME CAVE.
AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS WEIRD THAT HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, BUT MAYBE HE DECIDED TO WAIT FOR A PROPER EXCAVATION TEAM TO DIG OUT THE GEM?

WOWEE! THAT'S INCREDIBLE!!
SO YOU CAN SEE EVENTS IN THE PAST AND FUTURE??

OHH, THIS IS AMAZING!
WELL I GUESS YA CAUGHT ME!

WE WANTED TO TEST YOUR OBSERVATION SKILLS, BECAUSE WE HAVE A BIG TRIP COMING UP!

COOL FUTURE-PAST VISIONS ARE GONNA BE SUPER HELPFUL!!

OH... SO WE DIDN'T DISCOVER ANYTHING.

WHAT KIND OF TRIP NEEDS... VISIONS?

WE'LL BE TRAVELLING TO THE AIR CONTINENT TO LOCATE ONE OF THE REMAINING TIME GEARS AND SECURE THE AREA.

WE SUSPECT THE TIME THIEF WILL BE GOING THERE NEXT, AND WE WANT TO BE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

AND THANKS TO YOUR GOOD, GOOD WORK, YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE TO COME WITH US!!

'COURSE IT'S FOR BRONZE RANK AND HIGHER, SO YOU GOTTA KEEP IT UP!

OH, THAT'S... THAT'S AN HONOR. THANK YOU.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

YES, SIR.

CLICK!

YOU REALLY WERE GOING TO LET THEM *THINK* THEY DISCOVERED A NEW DUNGEON? A *ROOKIE* TEAM?

POKEMON WERE *SICK*.

AND YOU DELAYED AID SO YOU COULD GIVE YOUR NEW LITTLE TOYS *VANITY WORK*.

WE SENT THEM PLENTY OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES–!

SOMEONE IS GOING TO END UP SERIOUSLY HURT.

IT'LL BE FINE–!

IT'S *NOT* FINE!

IT'S NOT HEALTHY!

KALOS –
YOUR LITTLE HUMAN OBSESSION IS JUST FILLING THEIR HEADS WITH FANTASIES, AND YOU WERE PRACTICALLY CAUGHT IN THE ACT!

WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT,
THEY'RE A REAL EXPLORATION TEAM AND NEED TO BE TREATED LIKE ONE,
ALPHONSE–!

END OF CHAPTER 5